

Join us for the 123rd Christmas Bird Count!

December 17 – Edmonds/South Snohomish County CBC

December 31 – Everett/Marysville CBC

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was started in 1900 as an alternative to the Christmas “side hunt” in which teams competed to shoot as many birds as possible. That year, ornithologist Frank M. Chapman, an early officer in the then-nascent Audubon Society, proposed a new holiday tradition—a “Christmas Bird Census” that would count birds during the holidays rather than hunt them. One hundred and twenty-three years later we’re still at it, making it the nation’s longest running community science survey.

How to get involved

We have several opportunities for you to join in:

- Field Team Participant - Join a field team and spend the day birding within a specific area of the CBC circle.
- Feeder Counter - If you live within the circle boundaries, you can count birds from your residence. This is becoming more important as urban/suburban areas continue to grow in our county. And yes, you can participate as both a field team participant and as a feeder counter!
- Owler - We have several owling routes that can be done in the evening if you're not a morning person or have to work during the day.
- Crow Counter - We need people to count the “river of crows” as they move to their night roost.


Reach out to our CBC compilers and let them know you’d like to participate in this year’s count.

- Edmonds/South Snohomish County CBC Compiler: Brian Zinke (director@pilchuckaudubon.org)
- Everett/Marysville CBC Compiler: Scott Atkinson (cbc.waev@pilchuckaudubon.org)

For more information about the CBC, please visit our website at <https://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/christmas-bird-count>.

COVID-19 Guidelines

While much of life has returned to pre-pandemic guidelines, we want to provide a safe, comfortable day of birding for everyone involved. As such, we will once again be implementing the following participation guidelines regarding COVID-19:

- We will not be able to accommodate unvaccinated individuals in field activities at this time. However, we do encourage unvaccinated individuals to participate as feeder watchers if they live within the CBC circle boundaries.
- Carpooling will be allowed only with vaccinated individuals (all who are present should be vaccinated), and masks should be worn while in the vehicle.
- Masks will not be required when outdoors/outside of vehicles.
- Physical distancing is highly encouraged.
- Sharing of equipment is discouraged.
- [Participants must sign a liability waiver.](#) 

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Welcome To Our New Board Member, Bee Redfield!

We're thrilled to introduce you to our newest Board Member! Bee will be joining the Board of Directors as our new Membership Committee Chair, a position that has been vacant since February 2021. Get to know Bee a little bit by reading her brief bio below.

Bee's bio

With a lifelong love of learning and a passion for helping animals, Bee began working in the veterinary field in her teens and eventually moved into the wildlife sector. During the past two decades, she has worked in zoos and aquariums across the midwestern United States, in the field conducting ornithological research in Hawai'i, Montana, and the Channel Islands, and at the University of Chicago and Purdue University. She discovered early that she equally enjoyed the human element of ecology and feels that community education is the most important part of successful conservation initiatives.

Bee holds dual master's degrees in human resources management and in conservation biology. Blending these skill areas, she brings a human-centric perspective to the work that she does. She currently serves as the Executive Director of the Port Townsend Marine Science Center and loves learning about the amazing sea and shore birds that can be found along the coast of the Olympic Peninsula. ✍



WANTED: Membership Committee Members

Our members are the backbone of our organization, providing steady, enduring support to our efforts. During the past three years, our membership has grown substantially, and we want to build upon that momentum. The Membership Committee works to retain and increase chapter membership, develop membership resources, maintain the membership database, and create a welcoming environment for all. If you'd like to join the committee and help Bee in her new role as committee chair, please get in touch with Brian (director@pilchuckaudubon.org) to express your interest. ✍

Earn donations for Pilchuck Audubon when you shop at Fred Meyer or Amazon!

Fred Meyer Community Rewards

Link your Fred Meyer Community Rewards card to Pilchuck Audubon; each time you swipe your card at checkout, PAS will receive a small donation!

Learn how to link your card here: <https://www.fredmeyer.com/i/community/community-rewards>

Amazon Smile

Amazon has a similar rewards program called Amazon Smile that provides donations to Pilchuck Audubon. When you want to shop for something on Amazon, be sure to shop at <https://smile.amazon.com/> so your purchase counts. The regular Amazon website doesn't count toward donations, only the Amazon Smile website does.

Learn how to select PAS as your nonprofit in Amazon Smile here: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-6183664>.



Upcoming Classes

Register online at: <https://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/classes>



Pelagic Cormorant | Photo by Gregg Thompson

Go Fish!

January 5, 12, 19 & 26

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Online

Fish have been a rich source of food for humans probably as long as we've been human, but fish have also provided abundant food for birds for millions of years—certainly long enough for avians to have evolved many styles of fishing. In this series of four classes, master birder Constance Sidles will show you the strategies different species of birds use to go fishing. They are by turns ingenious, persistent, patient, aggressive, cooperative, and altogether wondrous.

Come to the sea, the rivers, ponds, and lakes with Connie as she tells you about the Plungers and the Pickers, the Snatchers and the Stalkers, the Chasers and the Scoopers.

\$45 for PAS members

\$60 for non-PAS members

Fine Feathers

February 14, 21 & 28

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Online

Feathers are more than just fluff. Anyone who has watched a duck preen its feathers for hours at a time knows that birds take their feathers very seriously. They should: feathers keep them warm (or cool!), enable them to fly, hide them from predators, and all the while, light up our lives with their beauty. If you've ever wondered about how birds' feathers work, then this class is for you. Master birder Connie Sidles will share with you all the recent information about how feathers evolved, how they function, why they are colored just so, and who has the most outrageous array.

\$35 for PAS members

\$45 for non-PAS members



Great Blue Heron trying to hide | Photo by Doug Parrott

President's Report

By Bill Derry

Well, after eight months as President, it's been a steep learning curve. Fortunately, we have a good Executive Director in Brian Zinke and a host of smart, experienced, and knowledgeable members. That's what it takes to keep up with all the environmental issues in Snohomish County and Camano Island and manage all of our events. Issues that we track include everything from forest practices to estuary restoration projects. Our Conservation Committee tracks and submits comments on these and major land-use proposals.



Our events include:

- Birding field trips every Tuesday and occasional Saturdays
- Monthly evening programs
- Birdathon, a month-long birding and photography competition in May
- Swifts Night Out, an annual event in August to watch Swifts spiral into a chimney in Monroe for the night
- Puget Sound Birdfest, a weekend event in Edmonds
- Feast in the Forest, our annual Fall fund-raising dinner
- Great Backyard Count in February
- Global Big Day birding event in May
- Annual Christmas Bird Count
- Classes in:
 - eBird,
 - neo-tropical migrants,
 - glorious gulls and terns, and
 - winter waterfowl
- Education workshops for teachers, and grants for classrooms
- We have a presence at multiple community events and presentations to organizations.

Pilchuck Audubon manages the Edmonds Wildlife Habitat and Native Plant Demonstration Garden. We coordinate and partner with other environmental organizations.



American Avocet | Mick Thompson photo

This summer we were fortunate to have received a generous donation of \$100,000 from Elizabeth Poll in her will. We are most appreciative of and take care in managing the donations that support and sustain us. Thank you for supporting us.

We also manage the business of the organization and are active on social media.

In addition to financial support, all this takes a lot of volunteers. If you would like to volunteer for a day or more, please contact us. We especially need members for our Board of Directors. This involves one evening a month for a Board meeting (currently a Zoom call). ✍

BIRDING FIELD TRIPS

TRIP CALENDAR



Check our website, <https://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/upcoming-trips>, for the latest information.

Saturday, December 3 Edmonds Waterfront

8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Trip Leader: Douglas Resnick

425-776-4811 (landline) or dresnick1@comcast.net

This is a half-day trip. We'll visit the Edmonds waterfront. This will be an easy walk. Some parts will be along the beach, so wear suitable footgear. Further details will be provided to registered participants. After you have submitted your [2022 Field Trip Liability Release](#) to director@pilchuckaudubon.org, please contact the trip leader, in order to register for the trip.

Tuesday, December 6 Clear Lake

8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Trip Leader: Phil Dickinson, 336-692-3760

Meet at 8:00 AM at the Snohomish Park and Ride on Avenue D just off Hwy 9 and Bickford Ave. We will explore the Blackman's Lake area, Riverview Wildlife Refuge, the Snohomish Flats, and Ebey Slough. There should be lots of ducks and other waterfowl. We also anticipate seeing a variety of winter raptors and songbirds and perhaps a shrike or two. Pack a lunch.

Tuesday, December 13 Lummi Flats

7:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Trip Leader: Phil Dickinson, 336-692-3760

Meet at 7:30 AM at the Quil Ceda Village Walmart lot west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quil Ceda Blvd. (next to I-5). This popular December trip to various sites on the Lummi Nation Reservation offers great chances to see Rough-legged Hawk, Merlin, Short-eared Owl, Northern Shrike, and many waterfowl species. A stop at Sandy Point to look for uncommon shorebirds may be possible. Pack a lunch.

Tuesday, January 3, 2023 Monroe to Carnation

8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Trip Leader: Phil Dickinson, 336-692-3760

Ring in 2023 with a trip through the Snoqualmie River Valley. Details to come. 🦋

2023 Winter Wings Festival

Get ready for a 2023 Winter Wings Festival like no other!

When: Feb 17-20, 2023 (Friday through Monday)

Host Site: Oregon Institute of Technology

3201 Campus Drive; Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Website: www.WinterWingsFest.org

Preregistration opens: December 13, 2022

Full Registration: December 27, 2022

Information: 877-541-BIRD (2473)

Email: info@winterwingsfest.org

Free children's activities on Saturday

Winter Wings brings together birders and photographers to learn and explore with professionals and enthusiastic local guides. The Klamath Basin is prime habitat for many raptors including owls, as well as a diversity of waterfowl. At festival time, there are typically about 120-133 species.

The keynote speaker will be Jennifer Hajj, educator and songwriter. The 2023 Festival will feature photographer Ray Hennessy, one of the winners of the 2021 Bird Photographer of the Year contest.

Join us for an extensive array of field trips, workshops, presentations, and receptions that highlight the wonders of the Klamath Basin in winter. 🦋

2022 Field Trip Waivers

If you plan on attending a field trip, please be prepared to sign a waiver when you show up, or send yours in electronically ahead of time to director@pilchuckaudubon.org. Even if you've recently signed a 2021 waiver, we'll need you to sign a new one for the current year.

As a reminder, our current guidelines are:

- For those who are unvaccinated for COVID-19, we will not be able to accommodate your attendance on field trips at this time.
- For those who are vaccinated:
 - Masks are not required while outdoors.
 - Carpooling with individuals from outside of your house is allowed, but masks should be worn while in the vehicle.
 - Maintaining 6 feet of distance between participants is highly encouraged.
 - Sharing equipment is discouraged.

Please review the full [field trip guidelines here](#). You can [download your 2022 waiver here](#) to sign ahead of time.

Thank you for helping us keep our friends, families, and communities safe! 🦋

Trip Report: Bird Walk at Twin Ponds and Llandover Woods, November 5, 2022

By Douglas Resnick

The weather during the preceding 24 hours had been somewhat rainy and very windy; so, it was a surprise to find on the day of the outing that both the rain and the wind had stopped. Five of us met outside Twin Ponds Park in Shoreline in cool and partly cloudy weather for some mid-autumn birding.

The main trails at the park go around the ponds, which are arranged one to the north, one to the south. Excepting the segment to the south, which poses several obstacles to anyone who might want to pass over the terrain, the trails form a block "A." The park's main parking lot is near the northeast corner, but it is sometimes full due to sports events. The park's secondary parking lot is near the southeast corner, but it is sometimes full due to visitors to the community garden and overflow from the main parking lot. We parked instead on Meridian Avenue, near the trailhead of a western spur that joins the main trails at the southwest corner.

We found a variety of birds in the ponds as we traced the outer edge of the "A." A number of Mallard and American Wigeon were in the water, as well as a Great Blue Heron, a Pied-billed Grebe, and two Wood Duck. A Belted Kingfisher cried out as it flew over the



Belted Kingfisher | All About Birds, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

ponds. In and amongst the trees and shrubs surrounding the ponds, we found quite a few woodland birds. We got particularly good looks at a pair of Bewick's Wrens. After skirting the synthetic-turf fields, which were hosting a soccer game, we crossed a bridge over Thornton Creek, then continued into the area of the community garden and the arboretum, located southeast of the "A." While admiring the garden, we spotted a flock of House Finch,

an American Robin, and a pair of Northern Flicker in the nearby trees. We eventually returned to our cars via the crossbar of the "A" and the starting spur.

Two of our group departed at that point, while the rest of us drove straight west on nearby North 145th Street to Llandover Woods Greenspace in Seattle. This setting



Llandover Woods
Greenspace | AllTrails

gave a welcome respite to some from the noise present at Twin Ponds, which was due to traffic on Freeway I-5. We had a pleasant walk along a loop-like trail curving among tall, colorfully-leaved trees. There were fewer birds here, many of them of the same species as observed earlier, but there were two stand-outs, both heard only: Varied Thrush, first of the season for some; and Downy Woodpecker.

We finished birding slightly before 11:30 a.m., having observed a total of 26 species, then adjourned to Shari's Restaurant on Aurora Avenue for an early lunch. 🍴

**No Program
Meeting in December**

Our little snowbirds have returned in large numbers in certain locations.

Carole and Larry Beason listed 42 Dark-eyed Junco in their report from their home in Snohomish. Their total species count of 28 also included 17 American Crow, an American Goldfinch on the bird bath, 15 American Robin, 5 Anna's Hummingbird, a Belted Kingfisher on the dock, 3 Black-capped Chickadee, 17 Canada Goose overhead, heard 2 Common Raven, 7 European Starling, 7 Golden-crowned Sparrow, heard a Great Horned Owl, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 4 Mallard Duck on the lake, 2 Mourning Dove, 5 Northern Flicker, 2 Pied-billed Grebe, a Pileated Woodpecker, 9 Purple Finch, a Red-tailed Hawk, 40+ Red-winged Blackbird, 10 Ring-necked Duck on the lake, 2 Song Sparrow, 5 Spotted Towhee, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, 5 Steller's Jay, and 4 Wood Duck on the lake.

Sarah and Paul Bueren's report from Edmonds included 28 Turkey Vulture flying over, 2 Spotted Towhee, a Song Sparrow, a Cooper's Hawk, 4 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, a Northern Flicker, 2 American Goldfinch, 2 Golden-crowned Kinglet, 14 American Crow, an American Robin, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Steller's Jay, 2 House Finch, 2 Common Raven, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 4 Band-tailed Pigeon, an Anna's Hummingbird, a Brown Creeper, and a Pacific Wren, for a total species count of 21.

Hilkka Egtvedt's report from Mukilteo included 8 Band-tailed Pigeon, 2 Barred Owl, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, a Downy Woodpecker, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 2 Northern Flicker, a male Pileated Woodpecker and a juvenile, 5 Steller's Jay, 7 American Crow, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, a Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, 4 Dark-eyed Junco, 3 Purple Finch, 6 House Finch, and 2 American Goldfinch, for a total species count of 16.

Reporting from Everett, Kriss Erickson listed 20 Black-capped Chickadee, 8 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 2 Bewick's Wren, 6 Steller's Jay, 28 Bushtit, 15 American Crow, 9 Western Gull, 23 American Robin, 8 House Finch, 4 Spotted Towhee, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 6 Northern Flicker, 2 Song Sparrow, 7 Anna's Hummingbird, 55 European Starling, 12 Dark-eyed

Junco, 3 Red-breasted Nuthatch, and 24 Cedar Waxwing, for a total species count of 18.

Maureen Schmitz's report from Everett listed 10 American Crow, 2 Steller's Jay, 2 Anna Hummingbird, 6 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 American Robin, a hawk species flying over, 3 Band-tailed Pigeon, 2 Song Sparrow, 6 Dark-eyed Junco, a Bewick's Wren, 3 Golden-crowned Sparrow, 2 Spotted Towhee, 7 House Finch, 2 Bald Eagle flying over, 2 Northern Flicker, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, 20 European Starling, 6 Bushtit, and a Red-tailed Hawk, for a total species count of 19.

Reporting from Stanwood, Mary Sinker's total species count of 41 included 12+ American Goldfinch, 15 American Robin, 8 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Bald Eagle, 4 Band-tailed Pigeon, a Barn Owl, 2 Barred Owl, 2 Bewick's Wren, 15 Black-capped Chickadee, 3 Brown Creeper, 6 Bushtit, 2 Cedar Waxwing, 8 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Cooper's Hawk, 21 Dark-eyed Junco, 5 Downy Woodpecker, 2 Eurasian Collared-Dove, a Fox Sparrow, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrow, 1 Great Blue Heron at the creek, 3 Hairy Woodpecker, 7 House Finch, a Killdeer in the pasture, 10 kinglet spp, 25 Mourning Dove in the yard and on the feeders, a Northern Harrier in the pasture, a Northern Shrike in the garage, a Pileated Woodpecker, 3 Pine Siskin, 3 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1 Red-breasted Sapsucker in the trees, a Red-tailed Hawk, 2 Red-winged Blackbird, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, 9 Song Sparrow, 7 Spotted Towhee, 12 Steller's Jay, a Swainson's Thrush, 3 White-crowned Sparrow, and 6 Pacific Wren.

Reporting from Marysville, my report included 50+ American Crow flying over, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, an American Robin, 3 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 7 House Finch, 2 Mourning Dove, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Northern Flicker, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2 Spotted Towhee, 4 Steller's Jay, 2 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 kinglet spp., a Song Sparrow, a Cooper's Hawk at the feeders, 30+ Rock Dove on the wires, a Red-tailed Hawk flying over, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, and 2 Downy Woodpecker, for a total species count of 22.

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

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 _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

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, <https://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/upcoming-trips>, for the latest information

Birding Trips — See Page 5



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!

Meadowdale Beach Park Estuary Restoration Project (MBPERP)

[Watch the Recording](#)

Nesting Success and Recruitment of Western and Clark's Grebes in Idaho

Presentation by Anne Yen

[Watch the Recording](#)

Reproductive Ecology of the White-headed Woodpecker in Washington's Ponderosa Pine Forests

Presentation by Jeff Kozma

[Watch the Recording](#)

Of Puffins and Petrels

Presentation by Peter J. Hodum, Ph.D.

[Watch the Recording](#)

Up in Smoke: How will birds respond to smoke pollution in the age of megafires?

Presentation by Olivia Sanderfoot, Ph.D.

[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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