

Birdathon Is On!

May 1 - 31

Birdathon is our biggest fundraising event of the year, and all donations and entry fees provide critical support to our work throughout the year. Your donation helps ensure that we can focus our efforts on the vital work of conservation and education in our communities.

Our goal is to raise \$12,000 this year!

[Make A Donation](#)

What is Birdathon?

Birdathon is a uniquely Audubon way to support our mission and help protect birds. Our Birdathon has two components:

- 1) A friendly competition to see who can spot the most bird species 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, such as \$25, to support a team if you're worried about them racking up a lot of species and breaking the bank!
- 2) 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



In this issue

About PAS.....	13	New Board Member.....	4
Action Training School.....	9	PAS Officer Elections	4
Backyard Birding Report.....	12	Photography Contest	2
Birdathon	1-3	President's Report.....	6
Birding Field Trips	7	Sno-Isle Register Roundup	9
Birds and Native Plants	11	Thanks	9
Conservation Report	8	Trip Report	11
Former Programs	13	Upcoming Classes	10
Jim Creek Property	5		

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!

- 2) A Washington bird photography contest. Washington is full of talented photographers, and our contest provides opportunities for both young and elder to showcase their photography in our youth and adult categories. [Read this year's photography contest rules.](#)

Continued on Page 2

Birdathon, continued from Page 1

How can I participate?

- Compete in our friendly birding competition and collect pledges to see if your team can see the most birds and raise the most money. [Sign your team up here!](#)
- This year we will have the following categories:
 - **Big Day** - see as many species as you can in a 24-hour period anywhere in the world
 - **Washington Big Month** - see as many species as you can anywhere in the state during the whole month
 - **Global Big Month** - see as many species as you can anywhere in the world during the whole month
- [Donate/sponsor a team](#)
- Submit your photos to our [bird photography contest](#)
- [Create a Facebook fundraiser on our behalf](#)

Visit our [Birdathon web page](#) for all of this year's rules and information. On that page you'll find resources to register your team, print your species checklists and pledge trackers, meet our teams, find fund-raising tips, and how you can support a team or Pilchuck Audubon by making a donation!

Please consider participating in this incredibly fun and important fundraiser for Pilchuck Audubon. All proceeds go toward our mission and programs throughout the year.

[Make A Donation](#)



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.](#)

Sponsored by

KENMORE CAMERA

center of the photographic universe

American Goldfinch | Photo by Mick Thompson

Join us for a Field Trip on Global Big Day and Support Our Birdathon Fundraiser!

As part of our Birdathon fundraiser this year, we are offering a few field trips led by experienced Pilchuck Audubon birders on May 14, this year's Global Big Day!

What is Global Big Day?

Global Big Day is a day when birders around the world try to count as many birds as they can in a single day. The purpose is similar to the Christmas Bird Count in December, but instead of documenting where birds are spending the winter, it's documenting where birds are on the landscape during migration.

How to participate?

As these field trips are fundraisers for our Birdathon, we are asking participants to make a donation of any amount prior to attending. For those who are not PAS members already, a donation of \$35 or more will include a one-year chapter membership.

These field trips will be limited to 10 participants each to ensure quality birding opportunities, so it's a first-come, first-served registration process. To sign up, please:

1) [Complete the registration form.](#)

2) Then [make a donation of any amount to our Birdathon.](#) On the donation page, select "Birdathon Field Trip" in the dropdown menu.

We will provide exact meeting locations after registration. Please do not show up if you're not registered so we do not exceed manageable group sizes.

By participating in these field trips, you'll also be included in our Big Day birding category for [our friendly Birdathon birding competition.](#)

Current field trip offerings:

Osprey Park in Sultan
Led by Jeff Hambleton
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Jennings Memorial Park in Marysville
Led by Philip Dickinson
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Barnum Point on Camano Island
Led by Graham Hutchison
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

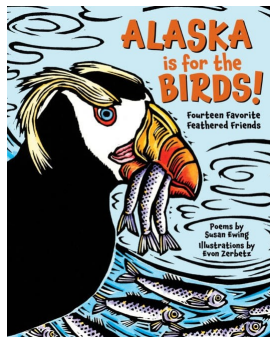
A New Bird Book for Children

Alaska is for the Birds!

If you have children in your life, you might be interested in a new book about birds in Alaska.

Alaska is for the Birds! was conceived with the intention of sparking bird joy in children and families through colorful art, playful poems, and kid-pleasing natural history details. To know birds is to love birds, and to love birds is to want a future full of birds, in Alaska and in every corner of the planet.

Alaska is for the Birds! was published April 19, 2022, by West Margin Press. ✧



Osprey | Photo by Mick Thompson

PAS Officer Elections Results

Last month, chapter members cast their ballots, and we have officially ushered in a new era of Pilchuck Audubon leadership. Positions on the ballot this year were President and Secretary, and we're pleased to announce that



Bill Derry and Jamie Adkins have been elected to fill those roles, respectively.

Neither is new to the Board. Bill has served as Vice President since April 2021, and Jamie has been Secretary since November 2020. Both have brought a wealth of knowledge to the Board from their professional and personal lives, and we're thrilled that they have decided to share their talents with us for another term on the Board.

ents with us for another term on the Board.

If you'd like to read their full bios, you can do so on our website at <https://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/who-we-are>. ✧



New Board Member-at-Large

Douglas Cooper

douglas@pilchuckaudubon.org

Doug has two grown children, and four grandchildren. He and his wife Candace moved to Snohomish from Spokane in 2011. He has a BS in Zoology, and a Master's-in-Teaching Art. He taught Biology, Physical Science, and Art in Mead Schools for 36 years.



He has volunteered all of his adult life: Volunteer Firefighter/EMT (27 yrs.), Snohomish County Medical Reserve Corps (5 yrs. still currently involved), Snohomish County WSU Extension Beach Watchers (7 yrs. and still currently involved), Driver at Snohomish Food Bank (7 years), and Pilchuck Audubon (on and off 12 yrs). As a member of PAS he has worked to purchase and place an Osprey platform on Archbishop Murphy's playfield, and helped with bird seed sales. Doug initiated the Christmas Bird Count on Hat Island through Barb the Harbor-master, served as docent at several Swifts Night Out, and participates in the Tuesday birding trips.

Doug stays active with biking, hiking, skiing, birding, and playing his guitar.

He believes in the mission and goals of PAS. He enjoys the people and relationships. He has time, and he wants to become more involved in an organization with shared meaning.

✧

"Native Plants for Birds" Web Page Updated!

We're excited to announce that our [Native Plants for Birds](#) web page has a brand-new look! This new look includes lots of new information and resources on why native plants are important, how to choose plants native to your area, where you can find them locally, and more! There are even examples of native plant gardens in the area that you can visit for inspiration! ✧



Mick Thompson Photo

Western Tanagers and Berries

Coming Full Circle: A Story of Conservation Legacy on Jim Creek

by Martha Jordan, Lands Committee Chair

The journey of the Jim Creek property began in 1988 when Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) accepted a donation of a 4.07-acre forested property near Arlington. Although a small parcel, it included the shoreline along Jim Creek as well as part of the meandering streambed. It was left to PAS because the donor wanted to protect at least a small area of Snohomish County in a natural state along a creek she loved.

The real value of this property is in it being a natural corridor for wildlife moving between the substantial Department of Natural Resources holdings south of Jim Creek and the State Forest Board lands north of Jim Creek Road. As one of the few undeveloped properties with natural vegetation in the area, it connects more than 1,000 acres of public land, providing an important corridor for wildlife. It has been, and continues to be, well used by wildlife of all types from a wide variety of birds, bear, deer, cougar, bobcat, skunk, and so many more species.



In the early to mid-1990s, PAS contracted with a company to remove invasive plants and enhance wildlife use with plantings of additional native plants. After the initial work, little was done over the ensuing years. The reality is that PAS needed to actively care for the land with a management plan and a stewardship fund to be able to keep it free of invasive species, monitor wildlife use, and be sure it did not end up as a trash dump. A management plan was never written, nor any long-term stewardship fund established. In 2016, new neighbors to the west had a dispute with us regarding the location of the property line. A boundary line survey was completed, and our west boundary was adjusted with the loss of

several feet from what we thought we owned from an old fence line.

It is unknown if anyone from PAS visited the property after 2016 until February 2021, when Brian Zinke and I visited the site at the direction of Allen Gibbs, then Vice President. What we found was the forest was working well, but invasive species were returning. The west neighbor had further cleared their land and pushed brush piles onto our property along the entire west line. Some trash dumping was also noted.

Small parcels, like Jim Creek, are challenging to manage. These properties require stewardship funds and many people to get out and work on the property. Increasingly, this type of property is beyond the ability of small organizations like PAS to adequately steward. Also, there has been additional development of housing in this area. Even with bigger rural lots, clearing up to our west boundary has happened. The property boundaries need to be maintained in a reasonably natural state as well as working to keep garbage dumping under control.

The Board discussed options for long-term stewardship of this property and determined that we were not able to do what was needed to properly steward this small parcel, either financially or by on-the-ground stewardship work. PAS does not have the land care/management expertise and person power to do what is needed for the long-term needs of this property. Because of these limitations, we consulted with others in the conservation community, including Tom Murdoch, Executive Director of the Adopt A Stream Foundation, who provided valuable insights.

We began a search for a new steward and owner. We found it with the Tulalip Tribes. They have an established, well-staffed land stewardship program and are looking for new parcels to acquire that meet their goals of land and water conservation and the preservation of native habitats. The bonus came when they found Coho salmon fry in Jim Creek on the property.

PAS is excited to announce that in late March this small, yet valuable, property for wildlife, fish, and forest connectivity was transferred to the Tulalip Tribes. The original 1988 conservation easement, in effect for perpetuity, was conveyed with the land. It is the best outcome for PAS, the land, and the Tulalip Tribes.

If you have questions or want more information, please contact Martha Jordan, PAS Lands Committee Chair. ✧

President's Report

by Bill Derry

My first report as President (as of three weeks ago).

In 2019, I was invited to speak at a watershed management conference on Vancouver Island. One of the other presentations that resonated with me was based on a book called *The Hard Work of Hope* by Robert William Sandford and Jon O'Riordan, two Canadian authors. (I mentioned this last year when I introduced myself in this newsletter.) It was mostly about the challenges of addressing climate change and how that affects water. For example, each degree of temperature increase in the air results in 7% more water in the atmosphere. In the face of climate change, habitat loss, chemical pollution, disappearing birds, salmon and insects, and the lack of governmental action, it can be hard to be hopeful. To make improvements requires hard work—hard work on science, public involvement, public policy changes, and personal changes. But there are good reasons to be hopeful and many things we can do to be more hopeful; some of them involving others and some of them are just things we can work on ourselves—the “hard work of hope.”

First, there are several things happening that can give us hope. For example, renewable energy has become cheaper than fossil fuels in many cases. (If you're thinking about a new car, make sure it's electric.) Insurance companies have been ahead of the climate issue for years and have increased premiums in coastal areas; many other businesses are now taking real action on climate. The insurance industry recognized climate change while many others were still denying it. Local communities are addressing climate change and sea level rise in their planning regulations.

There are many large restoration projects, including our Snohomish and Stillaguamish river deltas. And there are smaller projects like the Meadowdale Beach and Edmonds estuary restoration. For new projects, we are moving to the concept of requiring restoration rather than mitigation. Mitigation just reduces the loss. Support for environmental organizations is at or near an all-time high (thank you).

Local and state governments are likely to be leaders, ahead of the Federal Government in making positive changes. As individuals and Pilchuck Audubon, we can have a significant impact on causing positive change.

Dr. Jamil Zaki has written about cynicism and empathy and their effects on action or lack of action to address climate change. He is a psychology professor at Stanford University. His research has shown that cynicism has increased and empathy has decreased in recent decades. But his research has also shown that our actions can

change our own outlook and that of others. If we look at our past and think about our children and grandchildren, we increase our empathy. He asks: “Why would we mortgage our future—and that of our children, and their children—rather than temper our addiction to fossil fuels?” Empathy is a skill that we can strengthen by practicing it. A reason for hope.

I realized years ago that it's unlikely that we will ever restore our environment to the point that we have the level of birds or salmon that we once had. There are just too many people for that, with more on the way. That can be discouraging. But we can do many things to improve habitat, water quality, and air quality that will result in more birds and fish (and us). We can all do something to help. Doing something, even small things, gives us reason to hope that things will get better. Our actions may encourage others to do something, too, and that raises hope. You belong to Audubon and that helps. The work of Audubon helps and provides hope.

Helping makes us feel better and provides hope to us and provides positive examples to other people.

So, I hope that I can help Pilchuck Audubon and our environment. My priorities for my time at Pilchuck Audubon are:

- Recruit a new treasurer. We can support the treasurer with help in bookkeeping, annual audits by a CPA, and help with reports.
- Find the next PAS President.
- Help grow the Board, especially with finding younger Board members.
- Help grow the membership.
- Keep Brian happy.
- Make sure that we are fiscally responsible and have the tools and practices in place to accomplish this.

Personally, I will be spending time and energy on getting the marsh and estuary in Edmonds restored. There is a large and talented group of volunteers working on this, and I believe we have already made substantial progress with the City of Edmonds and potential funding agencies. It's very complicated and will take a long, sustained effort, but it will happen.

I hope to get out and meet PAS members this year as Covid restrictions are eased.

Thanks for your support. It makes a difference.

Yikes, my first President's report. I have to do this every month??? ✧

BIRDING FIELD TRIPS

TRIP CALENDAR



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

Tuesday, May 3 Darrington

7:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-631-2611

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). Interesting spring migrants often show up at birding hotspots along the road to Darrington and on the Sauk Prairie, including Mountain Bluebird, Say's Phoebe, Vesper Sparrow, and Chipping Sparrow. Pack a lunch.

Saturday, May 7 Penny Creek and Silver Lake

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Trip Leader: Douglas Resnick, dresnick1@comcast.net or 425-776-4811 (landline)

This is a half-day trip. We'll visit the aforementioned watery sites, which are in Mill Creek and in Everett. This should be an easy walk, though not short. 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, May 10 Deception Pass

7:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-631-2611

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). We return to one of the most beautiful places in the world to look for seabirds, shorebirds, and spring migrants. Welcome back former Tuesday regulars Phil and Joyce, who will be visiting from Arizona. Pack a lunch.

May 14 Birdathon Global Big Day Field Trip Fundraiser

See Page 3

Tuesday, May 17 Monroe to Carnation

7:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-631-2611

Meet at 7:00 AM at the Monroe Park & Ride next to the Evergreen Fairgrounds on Hwy 2. The Audubon wetland in the Snoqualmie River Valley offers an array of spring

migrants. Other stops include Tolt-McDonald Park, Sikes Lake, and the Snoqualmie Valley Trail. Pack a lunch.

Tuesday, May 24 Cle Elum

6:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-631-2611

Meet at 6:00 AM at the Monroe Park & Ride next to the Evergreen Fairgrounds on Hwy 2. We head over Snoqualmie Pass to enjoy Eastern Washington birds at hotspots like Bullfrog Pond, Northern Pacific Railroad Ponds, Swauk Prairie, and Teanaway. Pygmy Nuthatch, Black-billed Magpie, and Western Bluebird are among the attractions. Pack a lunch.

Tuesday, May 31 Leavenworth

6:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Meet at 6:00 AM at the Monroe Park & Ride next to the Evergreen Fairgrounds on Hwy 2. Popular destinations on this trip are Sleeping Lady Resort, the National Fish Hatchery, and Camas Meadows. Target birds include White-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Calliope Hummingbird. Pack a lunch.

Saturday, June 4 Meadowbrook & Matthews Beach

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

This is a half-day trip. We'll visit Meadowbrook Pond and Meadowbrook Playfield Park as well as nearby Matthews Beach Park, all of which are in Seattle. This should be an easy walk, though not short. 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. 🦋

Watershed Fun Fair

May 14 @ 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. FREE

Willow Creek Salmon and Watershed Education Center
95 Pine Street • Edmonds, WA

A fun family event chock full of exhibits, games, crafts, and activities especially for kids. Feed a fish, pet a turtle, learn about backyard wildlife habitat, soil and water conservation and more. The first 30 families take home a free potted native plant. At the Willow Creek Salmon and Watershed Education Center, 95 Pine Street. Call 425-771-0230 for more information. No registration required. FREE

For more information, see https://myedmondsnews.com/2022/04/save-the-date-watershed-fun-fair-may-14/?mc_cid=02aa38b93c&mc_eid=f893705860

Jennifer Belcher Passes

The first female state lands commissioner, Jennifer Belcher, passed away March 31. She was among four women elected to very important Washington State offices in 1992: Chris Gregoire was elected Attorney General, Deborah Senn was elected Insurance Commissioner, and Patty Murray was elected US Senator.

Belcher appointed Kaleen Cottingham, the first female Washington State Forester.

There were many firsts and very significant changes in the way state-owned forests, tidelands and shorelands, and navigable waters were managed.



Jennifer Belcher

I think the 1997 50-year Habitat Conservation Plan, which put state trust lands under the federal Endangered Species Act, heads her list of management and policy accomplishments.

To read about other changes, I suggest reading the April 8 issue of *The Seattle Times*. Look for Lynda Mapes' excellent story titled: "Jennifer Belcher was first female state lands commissioner." I am taking some of the quotes from Mapes' story, which are citations about Belcher's work by other leading women active in natural resource roles: Marcy Golde, long-time forest advocate with Washington Environmental Coalition, and Martha Kongsgaard, former chair of the leadership council of the state's Puget Sound Partnership and active with Jennifer in the Grand Old Women Network Society (women environmental leaders in Washington State). Dr. Jerry Franklin, professor emeritus in forestry, UW, says Jennifer "... helped reveal the workings and importance of forest ecology, particularly for old growth."

Pilchuck Audubon has worked with all of these people including Belcher over the years.

Again, I strongly suggest reading Ms. Mapes excellent story to learn about the many changes in administration of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. Also, a reminder that Hillary Franz is our current Lands Commissioner and is bringing major changes to the protection and management of state trust lands, tidelands, shorelands, and navigable water bodies.

There will be an event honoring Belcher's life in Washington State later this year.

Harriet Bullitt Passes

As this PROFILE is close to being issued, we received word that Ms. Bullitt passed away Saturday, April 23, at age 97, in her home near Leavenworth. She was a leader in many ways, benefiting National Audubon Society, and especially so in Washington State. More information about her personal contributions as a conservationist and philanthropist will be in the June PROFILE. There remains on *The Seattle Times* website for April 24 a lengthy story about Ms. Bullitt and her family. ✧



Harriett Bullitt

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! ✍

With our recent Board of Directors election, Allen Gibbs can officially put “Past” in front of his name as President. In fact, we find that very fitting, as anyone who knows him can attest to his unbelievable memory for history and things of the past. This was one of his attributes that has, and continues, to serve PAS in ways beyond measure. This knowledge of the past is important to provide context, understand the background of issues, and to avoid repeating past mistakes. His relationships with an amazing number of people involved in land management, politics, and regulatory agencies is also impressive and invaluable.

Allen stepped into the role of Vice President, then President, during arguably one of the most trying times in PAS history – the COVID-19 pandemic. On top of that, PAS had just hired a new Executive Director only six months prior.

Despite these challenges, his time as president wasn’t simply an act of treading water. PAS has had many accomplishments during the pandemic, several of which Allen has mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter. Allen’s leadership has allowed PAS to not just survive, but thrive during this difficult period.

And did we mention that throughout all of this, he continued to serve as the Conservation Committee Chair, too?

Allen’s desire to help PAS navigate these challenges exemplifies what many of us on the Board and in the chapter already know about him - he’s a selfless, dedicated friend who genuinely cares.

Allen, thank you. ✧



Allen Gibbs

Community Action Training School begins in May

Passionate about environmental issues?

Are you passionate about environmental issues?

Would you like to improve your environmental advocacy skills?

Those with an interest in environmental issues are invited to attend Community Action Training School, a free training program on scientific issues including watershed health, clean water, native plants, and salmon habitat/population restoration. The program administrators support attendees in the design and implementation of stewardship action projects in their own communities.

Community Action Training School, sponsored by Sound Salmon Solutions and Mid Sound Fisheries, is designed for residents of Watershed Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs) 7 (Snoqualmie/Skykomish/Snohomish Watershed) and 8 (Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed). If you are unsure of which WRIA you live in, you can look up your watershed area [here](#).

A watershed is a regional landscape of waterways where snowmelt, precipitation, streams, and rivers make their journey to Puget Sound. Classes are open to anyone age 16 or older in the north Seattle/Snohomish County area. They will run from May to September, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, with three intermittent, hands-on Saturday field trips, and a final citizen scientist-led project in your community.

[Learn more and register here.](#) ✧



Mark Your Calendars!

Sno-Isle Food Co-op’s Register Roundup Supports PAS in June!

Each month, the [Sno-Isle Food Co-op](#) selects a local nonprofit to be the beneficiary of their Register Roundup program. **This year, Pilchuck Audubon has been selected as the benefitting nonprofit for the month of June!**

How does it work?

Every trip to the Co-op, shoppers have the option to round up to the nearest dollar with their Register Roundup program. At the end of the month, the selected nonprofit will receive the total amount donated by their customers through the Register Roundup program.

We hope you’ll frequent the Sno-Isle Co-op in June, and when asked, round up your purchase to support PAS! And help us spread the word with your friends!

Upcoming Classes

Butterflies of Western Washington [field trip]

June 11

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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

Instructor: David Droppers

Join David Droppers as he introduces you to the butterflies of western Washington. But this is no classroom lecture. You'll be introduced firsthand in the field! Learn about a butterfly's life, Washington's different butterfly ecoregions, and how lepidopterists study butterflies and moths. Other topics will be covered as opportunities and questions arise.

The field trip will take place on Darrington's North Mountain, where we will stop at multiple sites to assess the local butterfly community. Using catch-and-release techniques, butterflies will be examined up close. Bring your camera! You'll see why butterflies are the perfect accompaniment to your birding adventures.

This class is currently full, but if spots open up or we decide to host another date, you can add your name to our waitlist to be contacted first.

Add your name to the waitlist:

<https://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/butterflies-waitlist>



Red Admiral | Photo
Credit: Washington
Butterfly Association,
wabutterflyassoc.org



Left: Herring Gull
(allaboutbirds.org)



Right: Forster's Tern

Glorious Gulls and Terns [online]

September 1, 8, 15, 22

7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Instructor: Connie Sidles

When many people—including a lot of birders—see a gull fly by, they shrug and say, “Oh, there goes another gull.” They don't see the glory of these silvery inhabitants of sea and shore. Gulls and terns are wondrous birds: smart survivors in a world much changed by humans, graceful flyers that fill our skies, and raucous communicators full of secrets. One of their most puzzling secrets is why are there so many different species, when they all seem to be doing the same thing? If you're curious about the answer and want to tell one species apart from another, come with master birder Connie Sidles to explore this delightful avian family. You'll never shrug them off again.

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

Register for class at:

<https://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/classes>

Trip Report: Bird Walks in Howarth and Forest Parks in Everett, April 2, 2022

By Douglas Resnick

We five met in the morning in the southernmost parking area of Howarth Park. The sky was overcast and the temperature cool. We had all encountered rain while driving to our meeting place, and rain continued sporadically during the next couple of hours.

Howarth Park has an odd outline. For the extent of the park, the park's western boundary parallels the coast of Puget Sound. Its eastern boundary follows the extreme turns of Olympic Boulevard. Thus, the park has thick and thin parts, and walking along the roadside is in some cases the only way to get from one part to another.

Our starting trail led us around a grassy area that was largely open, but was surrounded by trees and, in part, skirted a gulch. From its western portion, we viewed the water from a considerable height. By walking for a short distance beside a road, we were able to continue to a walkway that led over the railroad tracks, then down some curling stairs to the beach. After visiting the beach, we briefly walked northward, in order to see where the park's main parking area was and to bird the wetland next to it. We returned to our starting point via the most direct parts of the preceding route. We saw and heard a number of the usual woodland birds along the way, but the most exciting finds were birds in or near the waters of the Sound, which included Common Mergansers, Red-breasted Mergansers, Pied-billed Grebes, Horned Grebes, and Barrow's Goldeneyes.

Forest Park is more compact, but is divided by roadways. The full extent of the park is probably clearer on the park's trail map than on an ordinary map. We started in a small parking area in the eastern portion of the park, off Park Road. We made a loop through that portion, after which one of the group excused herself from the rest of the walk, which was expected to be challenging.

We crossed Park Road, made a side trip to the restrooms, then followed the main loop trail to the north and west. Somewhere during the most difficult part of this, in the western portion of the park, we turned back, per the group's request. Fortunately, there are many ways to walk through this park, and it was easy enough to find our way back to more level and drier ground.

During the two parts of the second walk, we saw and heard a number of interesting birds. Almost throughout the walk, we heard Purple Finches. At one point, we saw a Pacific Wren that was loudly singing from atop a stump. Two Common Raven called, as they flew among the treetops. Several woodpeckers were in evidence, including Hairy and Pileated. During the latter part of the walk, a Bald Eagle and two Red-tailed Hawk flew above the park.

We ended our birding at 12:43 p.m., having reported 38 species in eBird. Several of us afterward rejoined at Patty's Eggnest in Mukilteo. ✧



Birds and Native Plants

In the March 2022 PROFILE, we incorrectly stated that PAS member Ann Kramer had a photograph highlighted on the National Audubon Society website. We should have stated that Ann's entry was part of the winning entries in the National Audubon Photography 2021 Contest in a special category called "Plants for Birds".

You can see this winning entry, Varied Thrush on Pacific Crabapple, in *Audubon Magazine* (February 11, 2022) and online at <https://www.audubon.org/news/these-delightful-photos-highlight-how-native-plants-support-birds>.

See more of Ann Kramer's glorious nature photography on her website, www.annkramer.smugmug.com. ✧

Varied Thrush on Pacific Crabapple | Photo courtesy of Ann Kramer

BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

by Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

February 26, 2022 to March 25, 2022

Carole and Larry Beason's total species count of 44 included 40 American Coot on the lake, 54 American Crow in the field in Granite Falls, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Bald Eagle over the lake, 4 Brewer's Blackbird, 4 Band-tailed Pigeon, 49 Canada Goose flying over, 8 Common Merganser, a Cooper's Hawk, a Common Raven, 5 Double-crested Cormorant, 5 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 10 Golden-crowned Sparrow, a Great Horned Owl in the trees, 2 Hairy Woodpecker at the suet, 7 Hooded Merganser on the lake, 3 Mourning Dove, 2 Northern Flicker, 40 Pine Siskin near the road, a Pileated Woodpecker, 6 Purple Finch, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Red-tailed Hawk over the road, a Red-breasted Sapsucker, 12 Red-winged Blackbird, 7 Ring-necked Duck, 2 Rufous Hummingbird, 5 Spotted Towhee, 11 Steller's Jay, 6 Violet-green Swallow, 2 Western Gull in Granite Falls, and 2 Wood Duck on the lake.

Reporting from Edmonds, Sarah and Paul Bueren reported a Hutton's Vireo in a hemlock tree, 3 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 18 Dark-eyed Junco, a Bald Eagle flying over, a Downy Woodpecker at the suet, a Townsend's Warbler, Red-breasted Nuthatch, 6 Band-tailed Pigeon, 3 Varied Thrush under the feeders, 2 Spotted Towhee, 2 Bewick's Wren working on a nest box, 20 American Crow, 2 Song Sparrow, an American Robin, a Northern Flicker at the suet, a Golden-crowned Kinglet, a Pileated Woodpecker, a Common Raven, 2 House Finch, and 3 Pine Siskin, for a total species count of 22.

Kriss Erickson's report from Everett included 23 Black-capped Chickadee, 9 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 2 Bewick's Wren, 4 Steller's Jay, 29 Bushtit, 9 American Crow, 6 Western Gull, 7 American Robin, 4 House Finch, 4 Spotted Towhee, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 3 Northern Flicker, 3 Song Sparrow, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 23 European Starling, 9 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 4 Wood Duck in the water, 4 Varied Thrush, a Lincoln's Sparrow, and 2 Red-winged Blackbird, for a total species count of 23.

Hilkka Egtvedt's report from Mukilteo listed 5 Band-tailed Pigeon, a Mourning Dove, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Rufous Hummingbird, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 2 Northern Flicker, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, 3 Steller's Jay, 3 Black-capped Chickadee, 5 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2 Bewick's Wren, a Varied Thrush, 3 European Starling, a Townsend's Warbler, 2 Spotted Towhee, 2 Song Sparrow, 14 Dark-eyed Junco, 3 Purple Finch, and 12 Pine Siskin, for a total species count of 23.

Reporting from Everett, Maureen Schmitz listed 1 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 3 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 3 House Finch, 2 Spotted Towhee, 4 American Crow, a Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Bald-Eagle flying over, 2 Steller's Jay, an Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Northern Flicker, 6 American Robin, 2 Bewick's Wren, a Downy Woodpecker, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrow in the bird bath, 2 Song Sparrow, a Band-tailed Pigeon, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, and 2 Pine Siskin, for a total species count of 20.

Mary Sinker's total species count of 35 included 17 American Robin, 11 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Bald Eagle, 15 Band-tailed Pigeon, 2 Bewick's Wren moving into one of the nest boxes, 10 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Brown Creeper, 6 Bushtit, 5 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 22 Dark-eyed Junco, a Great Blue Heron at the creek, 2 Great Horned Owl, 10 House Finch, 2 Killdeer in the pasture, 8 Kinglet species, 15 Mourning Dove, 5 Northern Flicker, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, 3 Pine Siskin, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Red-tailed Hawk, 32 Red-winged Blackbird, 4 Rufous Hummingbird, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, 7 Song Sparrow, 8 Spotted Towhee, 8 Steller's Jay, 2 Tree Swallow, 2 Varied Thrush, 5 White-crowned Sparrow, and Pacific Wren.

Reporting from Monroe, Walter Zandi listed a Pileated Woodpecker, 5 Steller's Jay, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 5 American Robin, a male House Finch, 9 Dark-eyed Junco, 4 Northern Flicker, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 3 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Spotted Towhee, 3 American Crow, 18 Pine Siskin, 2 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Red-breasted Sapsucker, a Varied Thrush, and a Rufous Hummingbird, for a total species count of 18.

My report from Marysville included 3 American Crow, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 3 Black-capped Chickadee, a Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 15 Dark-eyed Junco, 4 House Finch, 2 Glaucous-winged Gull, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 3 Northern Flicker, 2 Mallard Duck, a Cooper's Hawk around a lot, 3 Spotted Towhee, 3 Steller's Jay, a Varied Thrush, a Mourning Dove, 2 Kinglet species, and a Red-Breasted Nuthatch, for a total species count of 18.

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

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.

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TRIP CALENDAR

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

Birding Trips — See Page 7



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](#)

Panama's Cloud Forest: The Junction of Bird Communities

Presentation by Thomas Bancroft, PhD

[Watch the Recording](#)

Finches of Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge, Colville, Washington

Presentation by Michael Munts

[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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