

Partnering with Libraries Makes Birding More Accessible

By Brian Zinke, Executive Director

On June 15th, I gave a presentation called an “Introduction to Birding in Everett” to a packed room at the Everett Public Library. This presentation was months in the making, not because putting the information together was difficult, but because of what we were unveiling that evening.

In July 2022, Jennifer Marx contacted me about whether our chapter would be interested in providing kits to libraries with birding equipment and books for the community to check out. She had seen other chapters do this recently, including Skagit Audubon during the pandemic. I loved the idea, and we began working on it.

Jennifer really jump-started the effort, researching prices for binoculars and books. I contacted Skagit Audubon, and they were very helpful (as usual!), sharing what they included in their kits. I also contacted the libraries Skagit Audubon worked with to see how their communities responded to and were using the kits. The results were positive, so we continued our work.



We applied for a grant from the National Audubon Society in the fall, and received word that our application was approved! We received \$1,000 to purchase the supplies for the birding backpack kits earlier this year.

I've given several presentations through the Everett Public Library over the past few years and love working with them. When I presented the idea of the kits, they were excited and onboard immediately. Elizabeth Koenig also deserves a lot of credit here since she has helped facilitate much of my work with the library over the past few years.

On the evening of June 15th, we unveiled the birding backpacks for the first time to a standing-room only audience at the Everett Public Library. We had people of all ages in attendance, and they were excited to see these new kits.

This presentation was 11 months in the making. It took teamwork and collaboration, all behind the scenes. I love this project because it shows how important our volunteers are in helping us fulfill our mission. This project wouldn't have come to fruition without Jennifer and Elizabeth's involvement, and I'm incredibly grateful to them.

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“Partnering with Libraries...” Continued

Two of these kits are now available at the **Everett Public Library!**

What’s included:




- Two pairs of binoculars in cases
 - 8x21 REAPP binoculars
 - 6.5x32 LW Oberwerk binoculars
- *Birds of the Puget Sound Region* field guide by Dennis Paulson et al.
- *Audubon Birding Adventures for Kids* by Elissa Wolfson and Margaret Barker
- *About Birds/Sobre los pájaros* (bilingual children’s book) by Cathryn Sill and John Sill
- *Ruby’s Birds* by Mya Thompson and Claudia Dávila
- Laminated guide for using binoculars.
- Laminated guide to birding locations in Everett
- Pilchuck Audubon brochure

Check out a birding backpack on their website here:

<https://wpac.epls.org/polaris/search/title.aspx?ctx=1.1033.0.0.1&pos=1&cn=850638>

Check out a Birding Backpack

- Youth and adult binoculars
- Youth and adult bird books
- Local birding spots with maps and directions
- Bird species to look for in our area
- How to use binoculars

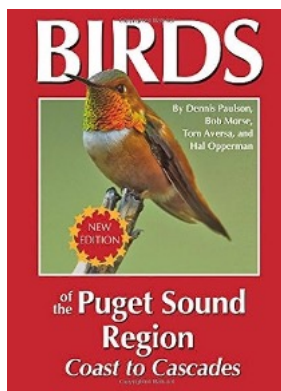


Want to buy one of the books from these kits for yourself?

Our chapter is an affiliate with Bookshop.org, so if you purchase these books (or any books) through our Bookshop.org page, our chapter will receive a portion of your purchase!

Shop from our page here: <https://bookshop.org/shop/PilchuckAudubon>

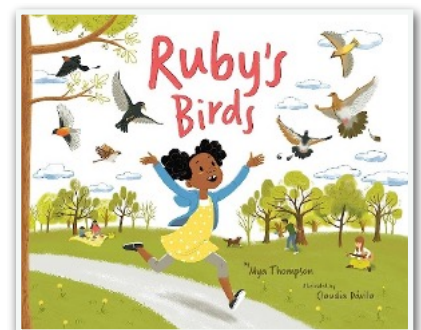
Books from the birding backpacks:



[Birds of Puget Sound Region](#)



[Audubon Birding Adventures for Kids](#)



[Ruby's Birds](#)



Virginia Clark Friends and Family Annual Picnic

By Doug Cooper, Allen Gibbs, Wilma Bayes

Planning continues for this wonderful event honoring Virginia Clark, a longtime leader of Pilchuck Audubon Society. Thanks to all who are volunteering potluck and equipment items and helping set up and clean up. Especially thanks to the Tuesday Birding Group!

Here is the event schedule.

Date: Sunday, July 16th

Place: Langus Park Pavilion, an Everett city park on the shoreline of the Snohomish River (400 Smith Island Road, Everett 98201).

Schedule

10 AM: Setup at the pavilion

10-11:30 AM: Birding trips on nearby Spenser Island; led by Jeff Hambleton and Phil Dickinson

Noon-1 PM: Potluck lunch. Time for end is approximate.

1-2 PM: Program led by Bill Derry, PAS President. Family and friends sharing stories about Virginia

3-3:30 PM: Cleanup of the picnic site

Virginia Clark Remembrance Wall

A poster board to which photos and special items can be temporarily attached will be available. There will be a table to hold special items. Consider giving items to Virginia's family.

Field trip registration

For specific information, contact Jeff Hambleton (j.hambleton@comcast.net) and Phil Dickinson (pdickins@gmail.com). There is no group size limit.

Parking is limited at the Spencer Island access point. There is no public parking right at the trailhead. A short walk is necessary from the parking site to the bridge entry to the island. Good birding along that short walk!

WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP MAKE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS!

Potluck Items to be provided by attendees

Please contact Doug Cooper (dvcjcoop@gmail.com) or Allen Gibbs (agibbspr@gmail.com) to let them know if you will bring items to the picnic.

Thanks to folks who have volunteered food items and equipment. Approximately 60 people are expected to attend.

Appetizers	Raw veggies and dips; deviled eggs; other?
Entrees, hot and cold	Pork and beans; meatball dishes; hot veggie dishes; other?
	<i>Hot dogs (beef and poultry) and fixings will be supplied by the PAS Board</i>
Cold salads	Fruit, pasta, pea, potato, green, and others?
Other stuff	Variety of chips and "chippy things;" pickled goodies
Beverages	<i>Coffee and assorted cold beverages will be provided by the PAS Board</i>
Desserts	Pies (by volunteers); other goodies?

Continued on Page 4

Note from Wilma Bayes, PAS potluck expert

If you like baking pies, we would love for you to bring one in honor of remembering Virginia. We all remember the pies she baked for us at picnics at her Arlington home.

For the non-pie bakers, bring something from the above selections rather than pies, to have a more diverse potluck to share.

Other items to bring

Please bring folding chairs. Picnic tables for seating and serving are available but we will need more. If you can bring portable tables, let Doug Cooper or Allen Gibbs know.

Eating and serving utensils, table covers and the usual paper goods (dinner plates, bowls, cups, plastic eating tools, paper towels and napkins) will be provided by the PAS Board.

Set up and clean up

Help with the morning setup begins at 10 AM. Cleanup begins at the site around 3 PM.

Please let Doug or Allen know if you want to help with this work. At this time, cleanup help is needed. Setting up has lots of volunteers now.

Cleaning supplies and containers for sorting of “trash” and composting will be provided by the PAS Board.

Weighing in on a proposed golf course at Westport Light State Park

From Audubon Washington

A proposed golf course development at Westport Light State Park in Westport, WA would imperil unique and rare coastal dune habitat and limit equitable access to Washington State Parks. How is such a thing possible in our State Parks you might wonder? Westport Light is one of four parks that was designated as a pilot for the private development of recreational facilities in 2016. The proposal by Westport Golf, Inc., includes the development of a long-term concession agreement with Parks that would allow the company to develop, operate, and maintain the golf course and associated facilities. Approval of the project would require permits to destroy protected wetlands by local, state, and federal officials, not to mention the disregard of the State Parks’ own policies regarding natural resource protection. The project is currently undergoing environmental review – you can [read our Draft Environmental Impact Statement scoping comments here](#). **We plan to continue working with our local chapters network to oppose the project.**

PAS signed the letter in support of Audubon Washington’s scoping comments.

Snowy Plovers photo by Mick Thompson



This month I was largely engaged with writing a grant application to NOAA for the Edmonds Marsh and Estuary on behalf of the City of Edmonds. Greg Ferguson and I wrote a pre-application in March and in April, it was submitted by the City of Edmonds. As a result, the city was invited to submit a full application by June 28. If we win the grant, it will fund hydrologic and hydraulic modeling of the effect of excavating the Unocal site and recreating an estuary for the marsh. The modelling will answer three areas of concern: (1) determine the effect of an open estuary on flooding along Dayton Street and Harbor Square; (2) collect and summarize information on the risks of excavating the remaining contamination on the Unocal site; (3) and identify a path forward for acquisition, funding, design, and construction.



Green Drinks:

Green Drinks Edmonds occurs on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Salish Sea Brewing Boathouse in Harbor Square, 6pm. This month, it's July 20th. Come on out, have a beer or glass of wine and meet other environmentally minded folks.

Pilchuck Audubon has a rich history of pursuing conservation actions in our communities.

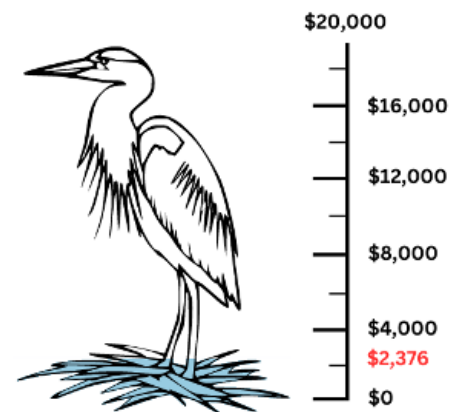
Help us build upon this legacy by contributing to our 50th anniversary campaign today.

Your donation is an investment in our mission, and will help lay the foundation for the next 50 years of our critically important work.

Donate to our 50th Anniversary Campaign



Help us fill the bird and reach our goal!



The Demo Garden is in Full Bloom!

Have you been to our Edmonds Wildlife Habitat and Native Plant Demonstration Garden lately? Alan and Bonnie Mearns visited this past week to find it looking magnificent! The flowers are blooming and the pollinators and birds are bountiful!

Now is a great time to visit. Get ideas about your own space, see the variety of native plants in the garden, and enjoy their beauty and colors! If you do visit, take some photos and share them with us on social media or send them to Brian (director@pilchuckaudubon.org). We may even feature them on our website!

The demo garden is located at 95 Pine St in Edmonds.



Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for this year's Feast in the Forest on Saturday, October 7th at Floral Hall in Forest Park, Everett. More details will be coming soon!



Bird Walk near Lynnwood Library, June 3, 2023

Trip Report by Douglas Resnick

Our group met on a mild, sunny morning at Veterans Memorial Park, just south of the Lynnwood Library. We birded at the small park itself, allowing time for the last of the group to join us, then walked westward on the sidewalk along Veterans Way, continuing the eBird checklist. There is a fair amount of greenery between the houses here; so, we did see and hear a good number of birds, including Downy Woodpecker, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and the ubiquitous American Crow.

Our second site was Wilcox Park. The southern part of the park is a large lawn, bordered by a line of flagstaffs, on which flags were indeed flying on this rainless day. North of the lawn are two small hills, with the lawn continuing between them. We visited the southern part of each hill and the lawn before exiting the park via the historic Scriber Creek Bridge to the southwest. Along this route, we observed birds including Killdeer, Willow Flycatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Black-headed Grosbeak.

Cedar Valley Community School lies northwest of Wilcox Park. Some birds can usually be found around the school, but the big draws for birders are the pond and field just to the east. We walked a bit out of the way at first, to look for any bird that might be nesting on

the cell tower to the west; we found nothing on top of the tower. Near the pond, we saw numerous Red-winged Blackbirds and European Starlings and several Barn Swallows. Looking eastward from the field, we were surprised to find a Green Heron flying to a tree next to the pond, then being chased away by a pair of the blackbirds. Looking still further east, we found an Osprey briefly circling, then landing on the cell tower.

We passed through the northern side of Wilcox Park on our way back to the library. We observed again some of the common birds, such as Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Spotted Towhee.

After a brief visit to the library, we resumed our birding along the Mesika Trail, just to the west. We walked the main trail plus the various spurs that connect the trail to the street west of the library. Surprisingly, of all the checklists for all the sites we visited this morning, this was the longest. In addition to observing the common birds, we heard a Mallard, a Pacific-slope Flycatcher, and an Orange-crowned Warbler, and we had a good view of a Northern Flicker (Red-shafted).

In sum, our observations, as reported in eBird, included 33 species. To cap off our morning, several of us adjourned to Zeeks Pizza in Lynnwood for lunch.

Become a Citizen Scientist



photo by Mick Thompson

The Puget Sound Seabird Survey is looking for birders in Snohomish County - in particular the Everett and Tulalip areas - to join this established Community Science program. Volunteers are asked to conduct 7 surveys with a small team of fellow surveyors at specific locations throughout the Sound.



All surveys are synchronized to take place once per month on the first Saturday, October – April. You will be provided training in the survey technique. Ideally, volunteers will have good seabird identification skills; however, there are roles on the survey teams for birders of all levels. Now in its 15th season, you'll be contributing to valuable science that monitors wintering seabirds across Puget Sound and informs important management decisions.

Previously, the project was part of Birds Connect, Seattle's (formerly Seattle Audubon) science program. As of 2022, Puget Sound Survey is now part of Puget Sound Bird Observatory. More information can be found on our [website](#). If you are interested in taking part, please reach out to at t_ross@pugetsoundbirds.org



BACKYARD BIRDING

by Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

April 26 - May 25, 2023

It has been a busy month for the birds except for the Tree Swallows. Unfortunately, I lost my 2 Dark-Eyed Juncos to a Cooper's Hawk that kept coming back for several days.

Carole and Larry Beason's report from Snohomish included 3 American Crows, 5 American Goldfinches, 8 Anna's Hummingbirds, 5 Bald Eagles over the lake, 8 Barn Swallows, 4 Black-capped Chickadees, 8 Black-headed Grosbeaks, 3 Brewer's Blackbirds, 4 Band-tailed Pigeons, 5 Bufflehead, and 2 Canada Geese on the lake, 2 Chestnut-backed Chickadees, 2 Common Loons, a Common Raven flying over, 3 Double-crested Cormorants, a Downy Woodpecker, 12 European Starlings, 4 Golden-crowned Sparrows, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, a Hooded Merganser on the lake, 3 Mourning Doves, a Hutton's Vireo, 3 Northern Flickers, a Osprey over the lake, 4 Pileated Woodpeckers along the road, 9 Purple Finches, a Red-Tailed Hawk over the highway, 24 Rufous Hummingbirds in the trees and on the feeders, 2 Song Sparrows, 4 Spotted Towhees, 4 Stellar's Jays, 2 Swainson's Thrushes along the road, 24 Violet-green Swallows over the lake, 3 White-crowned Sparrows, a Wilson's Warbler, and 6 Wood Ducks on the lake for a total species count of 41.

Reporting from Edmonds, Sarah and Paul Bueren's report included 2 Purple Martins in nest boxes at the beach, an Osprey, 2 Black-headed Grosbeaks, a Purple Finch, a Wilson's Warbler, 2 Glaucous-winged Gulls, 2 Cedar Waxwings, 2 Spotted Towhees, a Rufous Hummingbird, 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, 3 Western Tanagers, a Northern Flicker, a Pileated Woodpecker, 5 American Robins, 3 Black-capped Chickadees, 4 Chestnut-backed Chickadees, 3 House Finches, 5 Dark-eyed Juncos, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, a Bald Eagle flying over, a Red-tailed Hawk, 8 Violet-green Swallows, 3 Song Sparrows, a Pacific-Slope Flycatcher, a Steller's Jay, 6 American Crows, 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets, and a Common Yellowthroat for a total species count of 28.

Maureen Schmitz's report from Everett listed a European Starling, 2 Bewick's Wrens, 4 American Crows, 2 Spotted Towhees, 2 Black-capped Chickadees, a Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 2 Dark-Eyed Juncos, 2 House Finches, 4 Bald Eagles flying over, 2 American Robins, 2 Bushtits, a Pileated Woodpecker, 11 Band-tailed Pigeons flying over, 2 Gull Species on the roof top, 2 Black-headed Grosbeaks, a Song Sparrow, a Ring-billed Gull, a Northern Flicker, an Orange-crowned Warbler, and a Steller's Jay for a total species count of 20.

Hilkka Egtvedt's report from Mukilteo includes 9 Band-tailed Pigeons, 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, 2 Rufous

Hummingbirds, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, 3 Northern Flickers, a Pileated Woodpecker, 3 Steller's Jays, 3 American Crows, 2 Black-capped Chickadees, 2 Chestnut-backed Chickadees, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, 5 European Starlings, 2 Western Tanagers, 4 Black-headed Grosbeaks, 2 Spotted Towhees, 2 Song Sparrows, a Golden-crowned Sparrow, a White-crowned Sparrow, 3 Dark-eyed Juncos, 5 Purple Finches, 4 House Finches, and 2 American Goldfinches for a total species count of 22.

Mary Sinker's total species count of 49 from her home in Stanwood included 2 American Crows, 14 American Goldfinches, 8 American Robins, 2 Bald Eagles, 8 Anna's Hummingbirds, 5 Band-tailed Pigeons, 2 Barn Swallows, 4 Bewick's Wrens, 16 Black-capped Chickadees, 11 Black-headed Grosbeaks, 2 Brown Creepers, 9 Brown-headed Cowbirds, 5 Bushtits, 2 Cedar Waxwings, 5 Chestnut-backed Chickadees, a Cooper's Hawk, 5 Dark-eyed Juncos, 3 Downy Woodpeckers, 25 European Starlings, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrows, a Great Blue Heron at the creek, 2 Great Horned Owls, 3 Hairy Woodpeckers, 12 House Finches, 2 House Sparrows, 2 Killdeer, 3 Kinglet Species, 15 Mourning Doves, 3 Northern Flickers, 2 Olive-sided Flycatchers, a Pileated Woodpecker, 5 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 3 Red-breasted Sapsuckers, 2 Red-tailed Hawks in the pasture, 21 Red-winged Blackbirds, 7 Rufous Hummingbirds, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, 8 Song Sparrows, 6 Spotted Towhees, 3 Steller's Jays, 2 Swainson's Thrushes, 8 Tree Swallows, a Varied Thrush, 4 Western Wood-Pewees, 4 White-crowned Sparrows, 2 Willow Flycatchers, 5 Wilson's Warblers, 4 Winter Wrens and 2 Yellow Warblers.

My report from Marysville included 2 American Goldfinches, 6 American Robins, an Anna's Hummingbird, 4 Black-capped Chickadees, 2 Chestnut-backed Chickadees, 5 Black-headed Grosbeaks, a Common Raven, a Cooper's Hawk that was around for several days, 2 Dark-eyed Juncos, a Downy Woodpecker, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, 2 Kinglet Species, 2 Mourning Doves, 2 Northern Flickers, an Olive-sided Flycatcher, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, a Red-tailed Hawk flying over, 3 Spotted Towhees, 3 Steller's Jays, 2 White-crowned Sparrows, and a Western Tanager for a total species count of 23.

If you would like to join our Backyard Birding Highlights, please contact me at (425) 750-8125 or send an email to pricemara1@gmail.com

Birding Field Trips

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

Tuesday, July 11 Arlington Hotspots

7:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Trip Leader: Phil Dickinson, 336-692-3760

Meet at 7:00 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 should be a relaxing trip after our long June journeys. We will check out several spots in the Arlington area, including Trafton Trailhead, River Meadows, Nakashima Barn and wherever the day may take us. Pack a lunch.

Sunday July 16

Virginia Clark Family and Friends Memorial Picnic

11:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Langus Riverfront Park in Everett. Bird walks at 10:00 AM

2023 Field Trip Waivers

All field trip participants must sign an annual liability waiver. This year's waiver is an online form, which can be found at the top of our [Upcoming Trips](#) page of our website or at this link: [2023 Field Trip Liability Release](#). Even if you've recently signed a 2023 waiver, we'll need you to sign a new one for the current year. Thank you!

Please review our current field trip guidelines as relates to COVID-19 [here](#).

Saturday, August 5 Howarth and Narbeck

8:00 AM -12:00 PM

Trip Leader: Douglas Resnick, dresneck1@comcast.net
or 425-776-4811(landline)

This is a half-day trip. We'll visit Howarth Park and Narbeck Wetland Sanctuary Park in Everett. The walk includes a beach and some stairs, but no big hills. Further details will be provided to registered participants. After you have submitted your 2023 Field Trip Liability Release via <https://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/upcoming-trips>, please contact trip leader to register for the trip.

MONROE, WA · FREE EVENT

SWIFTS NIGHT OUT

Save the Date:
August 19, 2023

Celebrate the Vaux's Swift migration and watch hundreds of birds come to roost in the chimney at the Wagner Center!

FRANK WAGNER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
VAUX'S SWIFT
SPOKEN HERE

639 West Main Street, Monroe, WA

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

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Send me these via e-mail (check all that apply & include your e-mail address above):
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Pilchuck Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable corporation registered with the Washington Secretary of State. Your contributions are tax deductible.

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Trip Calendar

Check our website: [https://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/upcoming trips](https://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/upcoming%20trips),
for the latest information

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 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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Pilchuck Audubon Society

In Case You Missed It...

We certainly missed seeing everyone in person. However, one of the benefits of online programs is that we can record them. In case you missed one, below are links to watch our line-up of recent programs. Enjoy!

Who are you calling a Bird Brain?

Presentation by Kim Adelson

[Watch the Recording](#)

Reconnecting Floodplain to Benefit People, Wildlife and Salmon

Presentation by Mike Rustay

[Watch the Recording](#)

Gardening for the Bees (and Birds)

Presentation by Dave Kollen

[Watch the Recording](#)

What is a Raptor Anyway?

Presentation by Thomas Bancroft

[Watch the Recording](#)

Get the Lead Out: Loons, Waterfowl and You

Presentation by Martha Jordan

[Watch the Recording](#)