



March Program Meeting

Get The Lead Out: Loons, Waterfowl, and You

Guest Speaker: Martha Jordan

Hunters and anglers put tens of thousands of tons of lead into our environment annually, and it is estimated that between 10 million and 20 million birds and other animals—representing more than 130 species—die each year from lead poisoning. What’s almost worse is that we could get the lead out if we wanted to.

you can do to help protect our wildlife by Getting the Lead Out.



Loon entangled in fishing line | Photo credit: Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust



Dying Swan | Martha Jordan file

Martha Jordan will present a program on the issue of lead poisoning (toxicosis) in loons, waterfowl, and other birds. You will learn about the issues with lead and its toxicity to all life, how it affects our birds, our lands, and even us. Getting the lead out of our shooting sports is now of global interest, including in the United States. You will leave knowing more about the issue and what

Thank you to Daniel and Ginger Poleschook, who have devoted decades to loon conservation and getting the lead out of fishing gear where loons reside/breed in Washington State.

When: March 10, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Where: Online

Register for Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkf--prT0jHtfdb3Ob6RB8JFDyelHsj3TF>

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OLYMPIA NEWS – VOTE FOR HOUSE BILL 1181

We are almost half way through the legislative session. February 24 was the last day to pass most bills out of committees of origin. Exceptions are bills in the House Fiscal and Senate Ways and Means committees, and Transportation committees. March 8 is the last day for bills to pass out of chambers of origin (House and Senate).

At the top of Audubon Washington’s list of priorities is passage **right now** of House Bill (HB) 1181, the Growth Management (GMA) climate bill.

Our state legislation/policy expert, Adam Maxwell, sent a plea to those of us who receive alerts from him to contact our particular members of the legislature about 1181. He asks us to urge their vote in favor of 1181. He sent this alert on February 23.

Did you receive that alert?

Have you yet responded? Haven’t gotten around to sending your note to your representatives? Please do so now!

Education Committee Members Needed

The PAS Education Committee has become more active in the past couple of years, providing talks and activities for schools and at festivals and other events. The committee does wonderful work, so much so that we can’t keep up with demand! We get more requests for programs and our presence at events than we can staff with our current committee members.

Can you help us?

- Are you able to help staff a Pilchuck Audubon table at events and festivals?
- Could you give presentations to school groups?
- Can you help us develop educational materials and resources?

If you answered yes to any one of those opportunities above, we’d love to have your help on the committee! For more information on how to get involved please contact Madelyn Voelker at education@pilchuckaudubon.org.

Thank you for helping us serve more of our neighbors and communities! 🍀



1181 is headed for a House floor vote very soon. It has passed the required House committees. It has been among Audubon’s top priority bills for three years. It almost made it through the 2022 session.

Let’s get it passed this session!

Taking from Adam’s alert:

“The bill is essential for supporting local governments in planning for climate resilience and updating the GMA to ensure local communities are prepared for a changing climate.”

Tell your House representatives to vote “Yes!” In hopes of it passing to the Senate for committee hearings, we will then ask our senators to vote “Yes!” in the Senate committees and on the Senate floor.

If you aren’t signed up for Audubon Washington’s Fast Action system to receive Adam’s alerts, get in touch with me and I can help you through the easy process. Just contact me at conservation@pilchuckaudubon.org. Another way is to go to Pilchuck’s website, “Advocacy” section. Look for the “**WA State Legislative Directory**,” and search for the mailing addresses of your respective House and Senate members. Just write a short note asking them to vote “Yes” for HB 1181.

There are other high priority bills we want our legislators to support, but right now, 1181 is at the top of our list!

I will ask in the April *PROFILE* for your help to push a few other top priority bills. By then, there will be only a few bills still “alive” and actionable before the legislative session ends April 19.

I’m keeping my column short this time and focused upon HB 1181. Please give this bill your **immediate** attention! Many thanks. 🍀

Time to Start Planning Your Birdathon!

May will be here before you know it, and that means so will Birdathon! We hope you'll join us this year by participating in the birding contest, photography, or with your financial support!

What is Birdathon?

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

The first is 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, pledges could be fixed amounts, such as \$25, instead of per-species.

The second aspect of our Birdathon is the photography contest. Western 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.

Birdathon is our biggest fundraising event of the year, and all donations and entry fees provide critical support to our work throughout the year.

When is it?

Birdathon begins May 1 and runs through May 31.

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 between May 1 -31



Peggy Mundy/Pilchuck Audubon Photography Awards

We'll be updating the [Birdathon webpage](#) in the coming weeks, but now's the time to start planning your birding excursions and finding your best photos from the past year!

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

[Register my team!](#)

Upcoming Class



Hairy Woodpecker |
Mick Thompson photo

Getting to Know Washington's Woodpeckers

March 15
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Online

Jeff Kozma, Wildlife Biologist with the Yakama Nation and lead author of the Birds of the World account for the White-headed Woodpecker, will review key plumage and vocal characteristics needed to identify all 12 of Washington's breeding woodpecker species. Jeff will also discuss habitat and behavioral differences between the species to further aid in identification.

\$12 for PAS members
\$15 for non-PAS members

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

Register online at

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

PAS Annual Officer Elections

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

- Vice President (2-year term)
- Treasurer (2-year term)

The Board is a collective of knowledge and talents, working together to further the Society's mission. Everyone has a talent they can bring to the Board, and we need your help to ensure we can continue being a powerful voice for birds.

Please consider serving our Chapter as our newest Board member.

For more information, please contact Bill Derry (president@pilchuckaudubon.org) or Brian Zinke (director@pilchuckaudubon.org). 📧



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

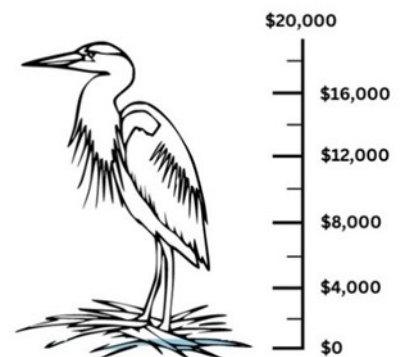
Help us build upon this legacy by contributing to our 50th anniversary campaign today.

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

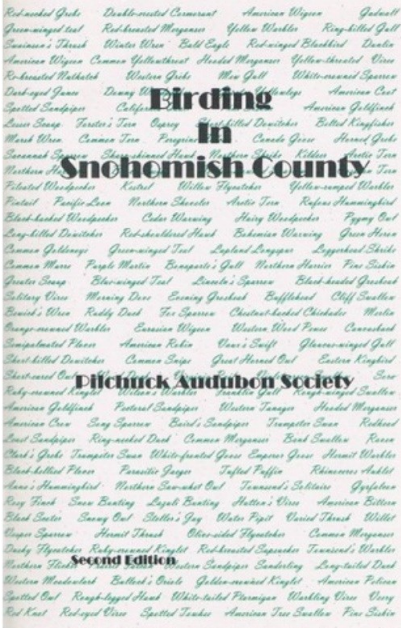


Donate to our
50th Anniversary Campaign

Help us fill the bird and reach our goal!



Birding in Snohomish County Book Update



We recently had our first group planning meeting to discuss the update to our *Birding in Snohomish County* book, and we are excited about the possibilities. The first edition was written in 1997 and the second, most recent edition was written in 2001. So it is long past due for an update.

Beyond the current group of volunteers working on the update, we could use some more help with specific items, such as:

- Creating updated maps (anyone with GIS skills?)
- Obtaining photos of locations to be included in the book
- Review of locations (need to remove or add new ones?)
- Gathering information on birding from a kayak in some areas
- Gathering information on accessibility at each location
- Writing sidebars about the history of some locations and/or interesting bird facts

If you would be interested in helping with any of these specific activities, please let us know! Contact Brian at director@pilchuckaudubon.org.

Thank you for helping with this exciting project! 🦋

Why Do Woodpeckers Like To Hammer On Houses? And What Can I Do About It?

Cornell Lab of Ornithology / All About Birds

Woodpeckers usually hammer on houses for one of four reasons:

1. Because it makes a satisfyingly loud noise that proclaims the bird's territory and attracts a mate. If the birds are drumming for these reasons, they will most likely stop once breeding has begun in the spring (they don't drum when looking for food).
2. Because the bird wants to excavate a nest or roost hole. If the woodpeckers are creating a nest cavity, the hole will be round and large. Nesting holes are usually built in the beginning of the breeding season between late April and May. If you need to evict woodpeckers from your home, aim to do so either before or after the nesting season.
3. Because it is feeding on insects living in the siding. If the birds are looking for insects, the holes will be small and irregular. You may have to call an exterminator to get rid of the underlying insect problem. Woodpeckers are particularly fond of the larvae of carpenter bees, leafcutter bees, and grass bagworms.
4. Because they are storing food. If you are located in the West, [Acorn Woodpeckers](#) peck dozens or hundreds of acorn-sized holes into large trees or houses, and stash a single fresh acorn into each one.

How to get woodpeckers to leave a house alone

Once you know why woodpeckers are hammering on your house, you can develop strategies for stopping them. Take a look at [Can Woodpecker Deterrents Safeguard My House?](#) for ideas on how to deal with troublesome woodpeckers.

Researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology have performed studies relating nuisance woodpeckers. One study, [External characteristics of houses prone to woodpecker damage](#),



Northern Flicker | All About Birds

found that lighter-colored aluminum and vinyl sidings are less likely to be damaged by woodpeckers. Another paper, [Assessment of Management Techniques to Reduce Woodpecker Damage to Homes](#), tested six common long-term woodpecker deterrents: life-sized plastic owls with paper wings, reflective streamers, plastic eyes strung on fishing line, roost boxes, suet feeders, and a sound system which broadcasts woodpecker distress calls followed by the call of a hawk. Researchers found that nothing deterred woodpeckers all the time, and only the streamers worked with any consistency.

Homeowners have reported some success deterring woodpeckers with windsocks, pinwheels, helium balloons (shiny, bright Mylar balloons are especially effective), strips of aluminum foil, or reflective tape. Other people keep woodpeckers away by covering an affected area with burlap or attaching bird netting (the kind designed for gardens and fruit trees) from overhanging eaves to the siding. If you use netting, make sure it is taut and set at least 3 inches from the siding to avoid birds pecking through it. Close off openings on the sides to prevent birds from becoming trapped between the netting and the house.

You may also want to plug the holes with wood putty to discourage further activity. If a woodpecker has dug a roost hole into your house, make sure there are no birds inside before sealing it up.

Never use any sticky "repellent," such as Tanglefoot Pest Control, Roost-No-More, or Bird Stop, outdoors. These types of products can fatally injure birds and other animals.

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/why-do-woodpeckers-like-to-hammer-on-houses-and-what-can-i-do-about-it/> 🦋

Looking Back

By Brian Zinke

In honor of our 50th anniversary, we'll be taking a look back at previous issues of *The Profile* throughout the year to relive some chapter history. This will be a fun opportunity to engage in some retrospection about which issues and activities have been priorities for the chapter and how they have changed—or not—over the years.

Issues: May 1981—November 1983

Saving Protection Island

Many of you are familiar with Protection Island, located near the mouth of Discovery Bay in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, west of Port Townsend. It is home to one of the largest breeding colonies of seabirds in the world, including the third largest breeding colony of Rhinoceros Auklets in North America and one of the last two remaining places in the Salish Sea that Tufted Puffins still breed. It's also home to the largest Glaucous-winged Gull colony in Washington State.

Today, Protection Island is a national wildlife refuge. But that wasn't always the case.

Historically, the island had been used for farming and grazing, artillery practice during World War II, and eventually divided up into a summer home subdivision in the 1960s.



But in the early 1980s, Admiralty Audubon began leading the charge to protect the island. Bills had been introduced into Congress to designate the island as a national wildlife refuge, but there was concern that, even if Congress passed the bills, it may not appropriate funds to purchase the island. This is where Audubon stepped in.

Admiralty Audubon began buying lots of land as fast as it could get the money. Pilchuck Audubon was supporting their efforts by donating funds from the chapter as well as the funds raised from our Birdathon event in 1981. But then an opportunity for Pilchuck Audubon to take a more active role in the protection of the island presented itself – Pilchuck Audubon could purchase its own lot on the island.

The advantage of each Audubon chapter owning its own lot on the island is that “we” would have another vote at meetings of the Beach Club (the organization overseeing the subdivision). No matter how many lots one person or group owned, they still had only one vote at the Beach Club annual meetings where support (or opposition) to wildlife proposals were determined. So it was important to have as many landowners as possible on the side of conservation.

In September 1981, the PAS Board voted to commit our chapter to the purchase of one lot on the island through an upcoming sheriff sale. The max price the Board was willing to pay was \$1,500.

WE OWN A PIECE OF THE ROCK!!!! - Protection Island

Good news - but don't relax yet!

“We Own a Piece of the Rock!!!!” was what one headline in our January 1982 newsletter joyously reported. In December 1981, Pilchuck Audubon purchased a lot on Protection Island.

After all the legal hurdles had been overcome, the island eventually became an official national wildlife refuge in 1982. And as they say, the rest is history! Today, Protection Island is a jewel in our waters and provides a home and resources to an unparalleled number of seabirds in our region. ✍

BIRDING FIELD TRIPS

TRIP CALENDAR



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

Saturday, March 4, 2023 **Edmonds Waterfront**

8:00 AM to 12 Noon

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

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 footwear. Further details will be provided to registered participants. After you have submitted your [2023 Field Trip Liability Release](#) online, please contact the trip leader, in order to register for the trip.

Tuesday, March 7, 2023 **Kiket Island**

7:30 AM to 4:30 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). The tide should be right for a morning visit to Kiket Island. Other stops likely will include Channel Drive, Simik Beach, Pioneer Park in La Conner, Swinomish Casino, and March Point. There should be a good selection of water and woodland birds. Pack a lunch. Dress for the weather.

Tuesday, March 14, 2023 **Port Townsend**

7:10 AM to 4:10 PM

Trip Leader: Phil Dickinson, 336-692-3760

Meet at 7:10 AM at the Edmonds Wade James Theater parking lot. The theater's address is 950 Main St., Edmonds, 98020, just east of 9th Ave, on the south side of Main St. Postponed from 2/21 due to a ferry dock problem, this popular winter trip focuses on various sites around Port Townsend, including Marrowstone Island, Fort Flagler, Fort Worden, and Kah Tai Lagoon. Pack a lunch. Dress for the weather, including possibly windy conditions.

Tuesday, March 21, 2023 **George C. Reifel Bird Sanctuary, Canada**

7:00 AM to 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). Rescheduled from last November, we will visit the sanctuary on Westham Island in British Columbia. Admission fee is \$8 Canadian (\$6 Seniors). We also will stop at Boundary Bay. Bring a U.S. Passport or Enhanced Driver's License. Note: Pack a lunch.

Tuesday, March 28, 2023 **Mid-Whidbey Island**

7:30 AM to 4:30 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). Our focus will be on loons, alcids, Harlequin ducks, oystercatchers, and other waterfowl at Sound-side sites from Rosario Beach to Swantown/Bos Lake and perhaps beyond. Pack a lunch.

Saturday, April 1, 2023 **Meadowdale Beach Park**

8:00 AM to 12 Noon

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

This is a half-day trip. We'll visit Meadowdale Beach Park in Edmonds. This will be a challenging walk, due to a significant uphill climb. One part of the walk will be along the beach, and the trail itself may be muddy; so, wear suitable footwear. Further details will be provided to registered participants. After you have submitted your [2023 Field Trip Liability Release](#) online, please contact the trip leader, in order to register for the trip.



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 the link below. Even if you've recently signed a 2022 waiver, we'll need you to sign a new one for the current year. Thank you!

[2023 Waiver](#)

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

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 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](#)

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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