

October Program Meeting

Great Blue Herons in Urban Environments

Guest Speaker: Kurt Licence

Learn about great blue herons and other wildlife living in urban landscapes. District Wildlife Biologist Kurt Licence with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will be discussing heron biology, wildlife viewing etiquette, and strategies for living harmoniously with our wild neighbors.

When: October 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Where: Online

Register for Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tdO6qrz0iHdeiV-5GA0gYfr9HD6NoayPB>



*Photo by
Patricia O'Neill*

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The Hard Work of Hope Pt. 2

I wrote last year about the hard work of hope. All the bad news and challenges in our world can be overwhelming and make it hard to hope. This can lead to a lack of energy to volunteer. One suggestion is to pick one issue and volunteer for that. This way we can make a difference. And change always starts at the local level.

Below, I list some reasons to be hopeful. But first, **here are some ideas for volunteer opportunities that can make a difference:**



- 2 hours, easy: volunteer to help with a Pilchuck Audubon booth at a community event. We could participate in more community events if we had more volunteers. This would spread the word about PAS, birds, and the environment. You don't need to be an expert. We'll have experts there with you.
- 2 hours a month: join a PAS committee like conservation or education.
- 2 hours a month: pick an issue, follow it and report to a committee or our Board of Directors. Issues include:
 - County and City comprehensive land use updates
 - Salmon recovery projects and watershed committees
 - Climate change at the local and State level
- 4-6 hours a month: join our Board of Directors

Reasons to Be Hopeful:

In September I participated in field trips to three restoration projects: Leque Island, Shinglebolt Slough in Sultan and Riverbend on the Cedar River.

Leque Island is a 276 acre restoration of tidal wetlands with removal of 2.4 miles of levees. This is a popular birding location. (photos from WDFW website)

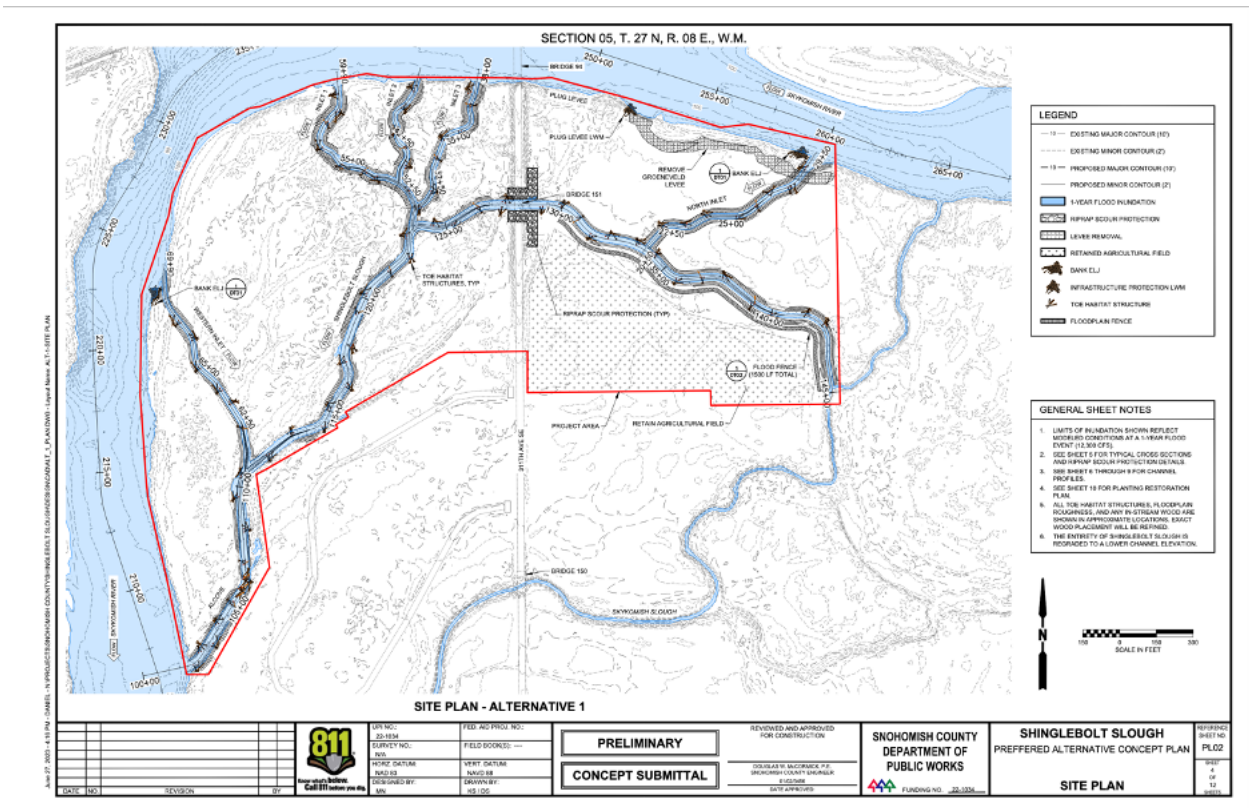


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Shinglebolt Slough across the Skykomish River from Sultan will create important side channel rearing for salmon and trout by removing levees, removing invasive knotweed and excavating channels. It will relieve flooding in Sultan. This will also be important bird habitat as well as providing food for fish-eating birds downstream.



Riverbend Levee Setback and Floodplain Restoration has restored 52 acres of floodplain, reduced flooding and created side channel habitat for salmon. This is in King County but the birds don't know that.





FEAST in the FOREST

**Saturday, October 7, 2023
6:00 - 9:00pm at Floral Hall in Forest Park, Everett**

Please join us for an intimate evening in support of birds and wildlife.

This year's Feast will include a delicious dinner catered by Ryan's REZ-ipes ([view menu here](#))

[Reserve Your Tickets](#)

As our chapter celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, we wanted to highlight another milestone of the conservation world: the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Our chapter began in the years of major environmental awakening and legislation, including the ESA (1973), Clean Water Act (1972), Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act (1972), Marine Mammal Protection Act (1972), Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (1976), and others.

We are extremely pleased to welcome Dr. Todd Wildermuth as our featured speaker, who will share his insights on the Endangered Species Act after 50 years.

The ESA at 50: What We Protect, How We Do It, And Why It Matters Presented by Dr. Todd Wildermuth



It is hard to imagine a world without the Endangered Species Act. Mostly, it is hard to imagine a world in which we do not need something to do what the ESA does. It is difficult to think of a single time or place where human activity is so generous, so aware, so possessed of a sound land ethic that we do not need at least one law reminding us that we do not have the right to extinguish entire other forms of life.

But after 50 years of experience, it is also hard to imagine a world without what the ESA is. So accustomed have we become to its key terms -- among them, "threatened," "endangered," "listed," "species," "critical habitat," and "recovery" -- that they feel inherent and permanent. They also sometimes feel like magic: mere words on a page, they have literally changed the world. These terms,

backed by the full force of the United States government, have served us all well in many ways. We should rightly be grateful for their work.

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And yet we know that all is not well. The law, for all of its real power, has not reversed the tide for most listed species. Climate change will compound this trend in ways -- few of them good -- that might surprise us yet. With good cause, we might wonder if the ESA has reached a kind of midlife crisis.

At 50, it is time to take stock and reassess. How did the ESA start, and where did it come from? How did it emerge at all? What is the source of its magic, its ability to transform words into real and positive action? And, perhaps most important of all: What do we need to do to keep it vigorous and strong well into a healthy old age?

About Dr. Wildermuth

Todd A. Wildermuth is the Director of the UW Environmental Law Program, and the founding Policy Director for the UW Regulatory Environmental Law & Policy Clinic. The clinic assists public interest organizations seeking to improve conservation policy, advance better agency governance, and promote environmental justice.



Todd has also taught in the UW College of the Environment on topics including environmental planning and permitting, endangered species, climate change communication, and ocean and coastal law. He is a co-author of a wildlife law textbook that is used widely in both law schools and wildlife management programs.

Todd has been appointed twice by the Director of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to the state's Wildlife Diversity Advisory Council (WDAC), which advises the department on management of non-game wildlife. He has previously served as WDAC Vice Chair and Chair, and presently leads a committee that is recommending changes to the state's endangered species program.

Todd is originally from Chicago, with time spent living in Michigan, Minnesota, and Utah before arriving in Washington and joining the law school in 2011. Todd received a B.S. in Environmental Engineering from Northwestern University, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences from the University of Illinois. He now lives in Seattle with his spouse (also a professor of environmental law) and his two teenage children.

Registration

Tickets are \$75.00 per person

If you're able, we hope you'll consider supporting our event by registering at a sponsorship level. All proceeds from the Feast will help ensure we can continue to fulfill our mission.

Space is limited, reserve your tickets today!

[Reserve Your Tickets](#)

Federal Government Shutdown

Fall, winter, and spring travel plans to warmer places in the country? A Federal government shutdown may interfere.

Our national parks and forests in the northern part of the US are already closing their campgrounds and some roads. These routine seasonal closures include the end of garbage service, potable water systems, and locking restrooms are in anticipation of freezing temperatures and snow.

With at least one likely federal government shutdown, national parks and forests with facilities, including campgrounds, restrooms, and visitor centers may not be open. The news media has mentioned that some national parks may be “open,” but not staffed, but this announcement mostly refers to such places as the National Mall with its memorials and monuments in Washington, DC. One can walk around them, but “facilities” and services could be closed. So, include water and toilet paper among your travel essentials. Frankly, this is good advice even without government shutdowns!



If a shutdown occurs, people with reservations for federal campgrounds should check on the status of those reservations. Concessionaires (private companies) operating resorts, ski hills, and such in national parks and forests will likely be open with full services.

There may be more than one shutdown. In the past, some shutdowns occurred for a few days, and then reopened, only to shut down again for a few days or weeks. Once the shutdown ends, it will take some places a few days to reopen to the public.

Keep in mind that in a shutdown, some federal employees are required to show up, even though not paid. So please be kind to those folks.
So, fingers crossed!

Yay! Crossed fingers worked! No shutdown for now. At least until mid-November!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 (NOTE DATE CHANGE!): MUSHROOM HIKE WITH GREG HOVANDER



Call or email Kathy to reserve your place on this hike, limited to 12 participants. Please include your phone number in case of last-minute changes.

After a too-long hiatus, we are pleased to invite interested mycophiles to join Greg on this popular outing, location TBD (depending on conditions). This will be an all-day hike (somewhat dependent on weather and group inclination) with expert mycologist and pharmacist Greg Hovander. Greg is a walking encyclopedia of mycological knowledge, from identification of hundreds of fungal species, to medicinal qualities, to nutrition and cooking methods. We'll proceed at a leisurely pace at first, locating and learning about all types of fungi. If time permits, there may be an option to finish with a more briskly-paced hike, but participants are free to skip this part and return home at their own pace if desired. Feel free to email/call Kathy with questions.

We plan to hike the first part of the Perry Creek trail on the Mountain Loop Highway. We will meet at the Granite Falls Park and Ride lot, 305 S Granite Ave, at 10 AM.

Trip leader: [Kathy Johnson 425-244-3281](tel:425-244-3281) or forest@pilchuckaudubon.org

Photo by Stephanie Weinstein/ NPS

Bird Walks near Lyon and McAleer Creeks, September 2

Trip Report by Douglas Resnick

We began our outing in the parking lot of Town Center at Lake Forest Park. A few of the spaces are specially designated for use by visitors to the Lyon Creek Waterfront Preserve, a short walk away. The trail, south of Highway 522, meanders beside Lyon Creek to the edge of Lake Washington, where the creek's outfall can be seen. The weather at this early hour was mild and partly cloudy, and few swimmers or boaters were in the area. We saw numerous Mallards and some Canada Geese, as well as some immature gulls, which remained unidentified as to species. The gulls took flight as we turned back from the lake, alarmed at the arrival of a Bald Eagle, which were able to study again as we walked back along the trail: it landed in one of the trees.

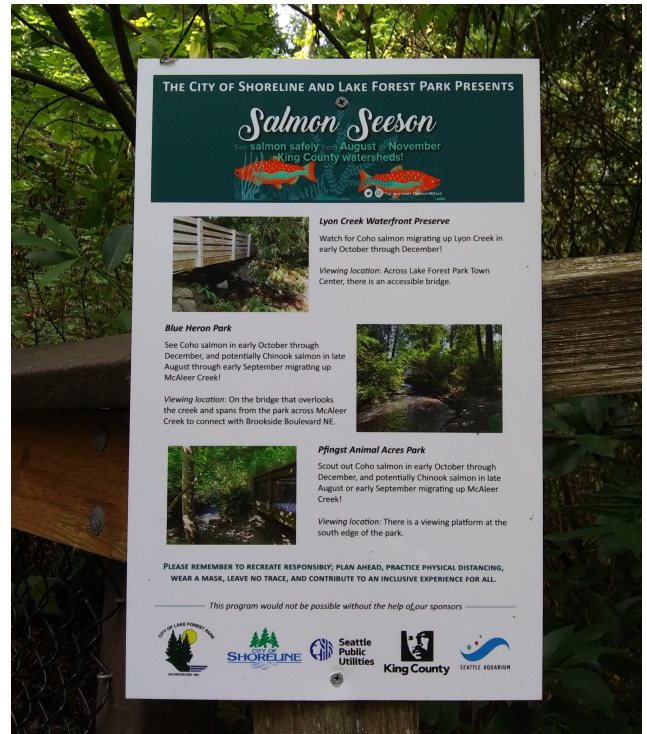
Continuing our walk along the Burke-Gilman Trail, we reached Blue Heron Park. Per the signs announcing "Salmon Seeson," we looked for fish in McAleer Creek, but found none. At this small park we observed American Crow, Northern Flicker, and Black-capped Chickadee.

Next, we returned to Lyon Creek, this time in Whispering Willow Park, where we paused amidst the greenery to await any passing birds. We were rewarded with Anna's Hummingbird, as well as woodland birds, such as the Red-breasted Nuthatch. After hearing a different sort of call several times, we glimpsed an Osprey overhead. Most numerous were the Bushtits; we counted 16.

After returning to our cars, we drove north to Pfingst Animal Acres Park. The main trail is a loop near the park's perimeter, but a couple of side trails lead to views of McAleer Creek. There were no salmon in the creek, but to our delight we found a Brown Creeper taking a dip in the water.

Our final stop was at Terrace Creek Park in Mountlake Terrace. The sky had cleared by now, and the sun shone warmly, although the park's trees shaded us along most of the trail. Here, the bed of Lyon Creek held water only near the point where the creek left the park, which is near the south end of the trail. Once again, we found no salmon, but this park was the outing's richest source of birding observations. We saw and heard Bewick's Wrens, repeatedly. Up higher in the vegetation, we found two warblers: Black-throated Gray and Orange-crowned. Through our binoculars, we followed a Downy Woodpecker, as it flew from tree to tree. Providing a helpful comparison, a Hairy Woodpecker also showed up in one tree.

We finished our walk around 12:30 PM, having reported 28 species plus one other taxon. Several of us then stopped for lunch at Snohomish Pie Co. before going our separate ways.



2023 Christmas Bird Count

Save the Date

Edmonds CBC

December 16, 2023

CBC Compiler: Brian Zinke
(director@pilchuckaudubon.org)



Everett / Marysville CBC

January 1, 2024

CBC Compiler: Scott Atkinson
(cbc.waev@pilchuckaudubon.org)

For questions or to sign up to participate, please contact the appropriate CBC compiler above.

BACKYARD BIRDING

by Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

July 26 - August 25, 2023

The report from Sarah & Paul Bueren from Edmonds included 2 Pileated Wood-Peckers, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, a Downy Woodpecker, 2 Northern Flickers, 5 Chestnut-backed Chickadees, 2 Black-capped Chickadees, 6 Dark-eyed Juncos, 6 American Crows, 2 Song Sparrows, 3 Anna's Hummingbirds, 2 Cooper Hawks, 2 House Finches, a Brown Creeper, a Pacific Slope Flycatcher, 4 Red-breasted Nuthatches, a Purple Martin flying over, 5 Band-tailed Pigeons, a Black-headed Grosbeak, a Spotted Towhee, a Golden-crowned Kinglet, a Warbling Vireo, a Hutton's Vireo, and a Yellow Warbler for a total species count of 23.

Kriss Erickson's report from Everett listed 22 Black-capped Chickadees, 7 Chestnut-backed Chickadees, 2 Bewick's Wrens, 7 Steller's Jays, 24 Bushtits, 20 American Crows, 7 Western Gulls, 7 House Finches, 3 Spotted Towhees, 14 American Robins, 2 Downy Woodpeckers, 6 Northern Flickers, 5 Song Sparrows, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, 7 Dark-eyed Juncos, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 2 Horned Larks, 8 Anna's Hummingbirds, 2 Black-headed Grosbeaks, and a Cooper's Hawk for a total species count of 20.

Reporting from Stanwood, Mary Sinker's total species count of 45 included 26 American Goldfinches, 14 American Robins, 11 Anna's Hummingbirds, 2 Bald Eagles, 7 Band-tailed Pigeons, 2 Barn Swallows, 2 Barred Owls, 8 Bewick's Wrens, 14 Black-capped Chickadees, 13 Black-headed Grosbeaks, 2 Brown Creepers, 2 Brown-headed Cowbirds, 9 Bushtits, 2 Cedar Waxwings, 8 Chestnut-backed Chickadees, 2 Cooper's Hawks, 6 Dark-eyed Juncos, 4 Downy Woodpeckers, 2 European Starlings, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrows, 2 Great Blue Herons at the creek, 2 Great Horned Owls, 3 Hairy Woodpeckers, 10 House Finches, 2 House Sparrows, 1 Killdeer in the pasture, 10 Kinglet Species, 18 Mourning Doves, 5 Northern Flickers, 2 Olive-sided Flycatchers, 2 Pileated Woodpeckers, 6 Red-breasted Nuthatches, a Red-breasted Sapsucker, a Red-tailed Hawk in the trees, 2 Red-winged Blackbirds, 5 Rufous Hummingbirds, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, 8 Song Sparrows, 5 Spotted Towhees, 3 Steller's Jays, 6 Swainson's Thrushes, 4 Tree Swallows, a Varied Thrush, 4 Western Wood-Pewees, 2 Western Tanagers in the yard and at the suet, 5 White-crowned Sparrows, 4 Willow Flycatchers, 4 Wilson's Warblers in the garden, 5 Winter/Pacific Wrens, and 2 Yellow-rumped Warblers.

My report from Marysville included 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, 3 American Crows, 2 American Goldfinches, 4 Black-capped Chickadees, 3 Black-headed Grosbeaks, a Brown Creeper, 30+ Canada Geese flying over, 20+ European Starlings in the fields, 3 Chestnut-backed Chickadees, 2 Common Ravens, a Cooper's Hawk, 2 Dark-eyed Juncos, 2 Downy Woodpeckers, 3 Glaucous-winged Gulls, 2 Great-horned Owls, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, 7 House Finch, 5 Kinglet Species, 2 Mourning Doves, 3 Northern Flickers, a Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Purple Finches, 3 Red-breasted Nuthatches, a Red-tailed Hawk, a Song Sparrow, 2 Spotted Towhees, 5 Steller's Jays, a Western Tanager, and a White-breasted Nuthatch for a total species count of 25.

If you are interested in joining our Backyard Bird reporting, please email me at pricemara1@gmail.com or leave a message on my cell phone at (425)750-8125.



Birding Field Trips

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

Tuesday, October 3. Nisqually

7:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Trip Leader: Phil Dickinson, 336-692-3760

Meet at 7:00 AM at Walmart at 1400 164th St. SW in Lynwood on east side of I-5 at exit 183. Park away from the store. Edmonds and Seattle riders can drive directly to Nisqually NWR. On this popular trip, we will explore the refuge boardwalks for fall migrants, check out the waterfowl and look for a Great Horned Owl.

Saturday, October 7 North Creek Trail in Mill Creek

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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

This is a half-day trip. We'll walk the segment of the North Creek Trail that runs through Mill Creek, then return to our starting point via public transit. The route is long, but there will be no significant 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 the trip leader to register for this trip.

Tuesday, October 10. Camano Island

7:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Trip Leader: Graham Hutchison, 425-890-0723

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 will look for fall migrants and water birds at several great birding spots, such as English Boom, Barnum Point and Iverson Point. Pack a lunch.

Tuesday, October 17. Point No Point

7:10 AM - 5:00 PM

Trip Leader: Phil Dickinson, 336-692-3760

Meet at 7:10 AM at 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. This Fall trip will include, not only the "Point," but also the Doublebluff area and Buck Lake. Dress in layers. We will try to catch the 4 PM return ferry. Pack a lunch.

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](#).

UPDATE: We have rescinded our previous COVID-19 requirements, and will be following the current County guidelines, which can be found here: <https://>

Tuesday, October 24. Clear Lake

7:30 AM - 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). Travel back roads to Clear lake, then Johnson-Delay Slough and an early look at the Samish Flats for geese, swans, and raptors. Pack a lunch. Dress for weather.

Tuesday, October 31. George C. Reifel Bird Sanctuary

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). We will visit the sanctuary on Westham Island in British Columbia. Admission Fee is \$8 Canadian (\$6 Seniors). We will also stop at Boundary Bay. Bring a U.S. Passport or Enhanced Driver's License. Note: Pack a lunch (no fruit with seeds).

Saturday, November 4. Carkeek Park in Seattle

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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

This is a half-day trip. We'll spend the morning in Carkeek Park. This is a somewhat challenging walk. Boots are recommended. 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 the trip leader to register for this trip.

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 _____

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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.

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Development Director		

Trip Calendar

Check our website: <https://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/upcoming-trips>
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

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