



## Pilchuck Audubon's 2023 Birdathon Photography Contest

Sponsored by

**KENMORE CAMERA**  
center of the photographic universe

### Entry Period

Photographers may submit entries starting Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup> through Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:59 p.m. PDT. No entries will be accepted after that date.

### Who May Enter

Pilchuck Audubon's 2023 Birdathon Photography Contest is open to all residents of the United States. Employees of the Pilchuck Audubon Society, its Board of Directors, and their immediate families are not eligible to participate.

### Categories

Eligible individuals may submit multiple photographs that depict birdlife (i.e., contain at least one bird or bird part) to their appropriate category:

- 1) Adult Category (18 years of age or older as of date of submission)
- 2) Youth Category (17 years of age or under as of date of submission)

### Eligible Photographs

All photographs must be taken in Washington State between the dates of June 1, 2022 and May 31, 2023. Normal processing of original file is acceptable, including:

- Cropping
- Minor adjustments to color, white balance, tone, lighting levels and curves, shadows and highlights, saturation, contrast, sharpness
- Moderate dodging and burning
- Removal of dust spots and reduction of noise

Over-manipulation of photographs may be grounds for disqualification at the judges' discretion.

Examples of over-manipulation include:

- HDR frame stacking
- Stitched panoramics
- Images that have been manipulated by the addition, removal, or alteration (painting over, cloning, or blurring) of anything in the original subject and scene that were photographed
- Borders, signatures, or watermarks
- Changes in color so significant that the processed colors are widely different from the original colors
- Changes in density, contrast, color and/or saturation levels, and dodging and burning that significantly alter content by obscuring or eliminating information in the picture

## Ethical Bird Photography

Pilchuck Audubon encourages every photographer to practice responsible bird photography. Prior to submitting any photograph, you must read Audubon's [Guide to Ethical Bird Photography](#). A photograph that appears to Pilchuck Audubon or the judges to reflect one of the following situations is not eligible for submission and, if submitted, will be disqualified at Pilchuck Audubon's sole discretion. That includes:

- Birds (including chicks) that appear to be stressed or harassed by the photographer
- Birds at nests taken with wide-angle or macro lens
- Birds (including but not limited to hawks, owls, eagles, ospreys, roadrunners) lured with bait. "Bait" includes live animals (such as snakes, fish, mice, crickets, worms), dead animals or parts of animals, processed meat, and decoys such as fake mice.
- Nocturnal birds (e.g., owls, nightjars) taken with a flash at night
- Birds photographed by or with drones
- Birds photographed with a remotely triggered camera that uses a direct flash or for which bait or another lure has been supplied to attract the animal. Setting a camera trap around a fresh kill or cache is generally acceptable, as is the use of a flash with a filter that only lets through infrared light.

## How to Enter

All entries must be submitted online; however, entry fees may be paid online or via check. Entry fees are \$10 per photograph in the Adult Category and \$5 per photograph in the Youth Category. There is no limit to the number of photographs an individual may submit. Submissions will not be judged unless entry fees have been received.

To enter:

- 1) Email your high-quality photographs (JPG format) to [director@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:director@pilchuckaudubon.org). In the email, please indicate:
  - Your name
  - Phone number
  - Category you are submitting your photographs to
  - Title of each photograph
  - Where you took each photograph (general locations, such as Spencer Island, not GPS coordinates)
- 2) Submit your payment
  - Submit your entry fees [online here](#)
    - Type in the amount based on the number of photographs you are submitting
    - Select "Photography Contest" in the dropdown menu
  - Or send your check to:  
Pilchuck Audubon Society  
1429 Ave D, PMB 198  
Snohomish, WA 98290

Entry fees help support Pilchuck Audubon's programs throughout the year, including developing educational programs, providing opportunities for community science, and advocating for birds at local, county, and state government levels.

## **Judging**

Judging will be conducted by a panel of impartial judges from the community, that may include photographers, bird experts, Pilchuck Audubon Board members, and sponsors. Judges will score eligible photographs using the following criteria: a) Technical Quality (30 percent); b) Originality (30 percent); and c) Artistic Merit (40 percent). Prizes will be awarded as follows: a) 1<sup>st</sup> place in each category to the highest scoring photograph; b) 2<sup>nd</sup> place in each category to the second highest scoring photograph; c) 3<sup>rd</sup> place in each category to third highest scoring photograph; d) one People's Choice Award to the photograph that receives the most votes from the public.

No photographer may win more than one prize. In the event of a tie for any prize, the judges will use the Artistic Merit score of each tied photograph to rank the photographs. The photograph with the highest Artistic Merit score will be the winner of that prize. If there continues to be a tie after the Artistic Merit scores are compared, the judges will compare and rank the Technical Quality scores, and then the Originality scores, in that order. The decisions of the judges and Pilchuck Audubon will be final. Winners will be contacted by email and/or telephone on or about July 1, 2023.

## **People's Choice**

All photos submitted will be eligible for the People's Choice Award, regardless of category submitted. Our judges will select a subset of the photographs submitted, which will then be posted online on the Pilchuck Audubon Facebook and Instagram pages for voting by the public. To vote for a specific photograph to win, the public must "like" that image on our official pages. Each photograph will be posted on a separate day and allowed to receive votes for 7 days. After 7 days, any additional likes will not count to the official scoring. The photograph with the highest combined score (votes from both the Facebook page and Instagram page) will be crowned the People's Choice Award Winner.

## **Prizes**

There are seven prizes available to be won: top three places in each category, and one People's Choice Award. Prizes will be awarded only to the person whose name is on the winning entry at the time of submission.

### **Adult Category:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$50 gift card to Kenmore Camera; 1-day social media takeover
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: 1-day social media takeover; free registration to one Pilchuck Audubon class under \$30 or half-price for over \$30
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Free registration to one Pilchuck Audubon class under \$30 or half-price for over \$30

### **Youth Category:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$50 gift card to Kenmore Camera; 1-day social media takeover
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: 1-day social media takeover; free registration to one Pilchuck Audubon class under \$30 or half-price for over \$30
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Free registration to one Pilchuck Audubon class under \$30 or half-price for over \$30

### **People's Choice:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: 1-day social media takeover; free registration to one Pilchuck Audubon class under \$30 or half-price for over \$30

**Copyright and Usage**

Photographers will retain the copyright for all photographs submitted to the contest and agree to grant Pilchuck Audubon perpetual use of the photographs for promotional and educational purposes related to Birdathon and the Birdathon Photography Contest, including but not limited to: brochures, flyers, website, social media, newsletter, and slideshows.