



January Program Meeting

Marking Waterfowl in Washington: Insights from Banding and Telemetry Projects

Guest Speaker: Kyle Spragens, Waterfowl Section Manager, WDFW

Thursday, January 11th, 7:00-8:30pm
Commission Meeting Room, Snohomish PUD Building
2320 California Street, Everett, WA 98201
Or attend online via Zoom ([register here](#))

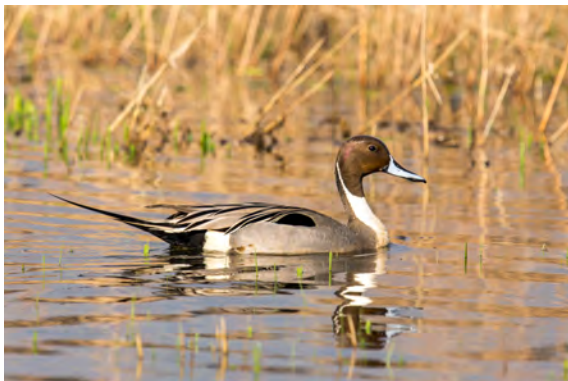


Photo by Mick Thompson

The WDFW Waterfowl Section is responsible for monitoring of waterfowl and other migratory game birds in Washington state to inform conservation and management efforts here in Washington and across the Pacific Flyway. These marking projects are made possible by flyway-level cooperative partnerships. Examples from recent marking projects will be used to highlight the important information that can be learned through these tremendous collaborations and to illustrate some of the amazing stories of migratory connectivity demonstrated by a number of species marked in Washington.

Reminder About Changes to Monthly Programs

- 1) Monthly programs will be held on the second Thursday of the month.
- 2) We will be meeting at the Snohomish PUD building in Everett (2320 California Street, Everett, WA 98201).
- 3) We will try our hand at hosting hybrid monthly programs. By hybrid, we mean you'll be able to attend either in-person or online via Zoom.

We are glad to welcome you back in-person for our January monthly program!

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Hot Off The Press!

Our new book is in stock and flying off the shelves! Haven't ordered yours yet? Pilchuck Audubon members get 10% items in our online store. Ask about our discount code before you order.

Birding in Snohomish County & Camano Island, 3rd Edition

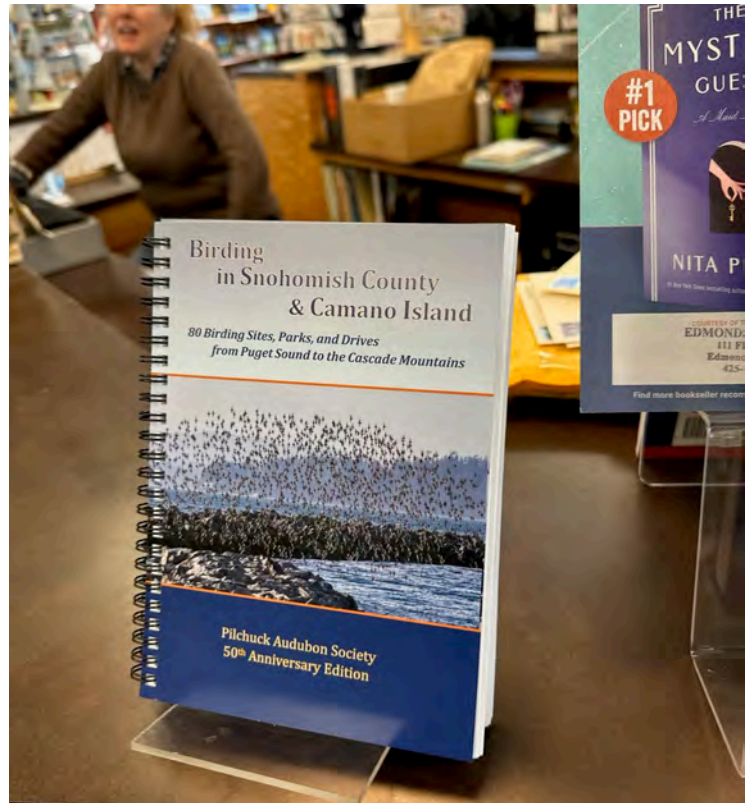
A field guide to the best birding locations in Snohomish County and Camano Island, Washington

A 154-page, full-color, updated and expanded 3rd edition of Philip Zalesky's original book, *Birding in Snohomish County and Camano Island, 3rd Edition* is a celebration of the variety and bountiful birding locations in the area. With habitats ranging from marine to alpine, the diversity of species that can be found here are a birder's dream.

This new edition covers more than 80 locations, noting general information about the sites and which birds are common at each. Philip Zalesky's original site descriptions have been revised and updated, including new observations, recent sightings, and historical and natural history information. Our local birders have added their own interesting anecdotes, including the many ways things have changed since the 2nd edition was published in 2001. Local bird photographers have contributed over 100 full-color photographs showing the splendor of our local birds and the wondrous beauty of the birding habitats found in our area. A checklist includes all 355 species of birds ever sighted in Snohomish County and Camano Island.

We hope this book will guide you to new areas you haven't explored yet, or give you an idea of where to start if you're visiting Western Washington.

All proceeds will help fund local conservation efforts in Snohomish County and Camano Island.



Price: \$20.00

[Order Yours Here!](#)

Or, pick yours up at the Edmonds Bookshop!

President's Report

by **Bill Derry**

Happy New Year. Thank you for all your activities in 2023 whether it's watching birds out your windows, PAS field trips, volunteering for events or committees, or serving on our Board and thank you Brian, our Executive Director. Thanks to all of you, Pilchuck Audubon is in good shape. We have strong member numbers, solid financials, we are effective environmental advocates, and we host great events.

Looking forward to 2024, it's exciting to return to in-person Board meetings, monthly programs and other events.

For 2024 my goals are to make sure the business side of the chapter is in good shape.

That means attending to the budget, sound accounting practices, fund raising, record keeping, recruiting members and volunteers, and updating our strategic plan.

And speaking of volunteers, let Brian or I know if you would like to know more about the following.



Easy Saturday Morning Volunteer Opportunities

If you can spare a Saturday morning or afternoon, we will be hosting tables at community events in Edmonds and Everett and other locations if we have volunteers.

Ready for More?

We could use help with committee chairs or participants and Board members.

Christmas Bird Count

By Brian Zinke

Thanks to everyone who participated in our two Christmas Bird Counts! The Edmonds CBC on December 16 had exceptionally nice weather, which we're all grateful for! We're still compiling all the data you collected, and hope to have the results ready to share with you in February. Thank you again for contributing to this important community science effort!



Virginia Clark Memorial Donation to Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

By Doug Cooper

On December second, eleven Pilchuck birders, relatives of Virginia, and Padilla Bay employees met at Padilla Bay Reserve to honor Virginia and dedicate our donation of binoculars and children's field guides to the Reserve.

Susan Wood, Padilla Bay director, wrote, "We are honored by Pilchuck Audubon's offer, and look forward to putting these binoculars and books to good use with the youth who visit Padilla Bay. Arlington second graders have been coming here as long as I have been on staff (since 1988), and I don't doubt that Virginia was involved in that."

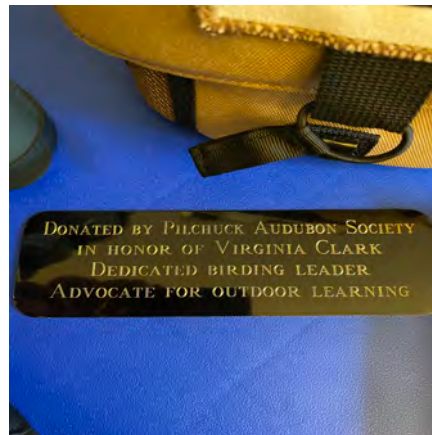
Jane Lommel and Wilma Bayes spearheaded this effort to memorialize Virginia with the \$2957 that was donated to "The Virginia Clark Memorial" link on our website. With Martha Jordan's help, we purchased 10 Vortex Diamondback HD 8x42 binoculars, a rolling cart, and two memorial plaques. I located the 10 field guides by Karen DeWitz, "Look at That Bird!: A Young Naturalist's Guide to Pacific Northwest Birding" at Birds Connect Seattle. Jane and Wilma collaborated with Lee Ann, Virginia's step-daughter, to

organize a birding scrapbook to donate to Padilla Bay, and a cookie recipe book to honor Virginia's wonderful cookies and her yummy contributions to all of us.

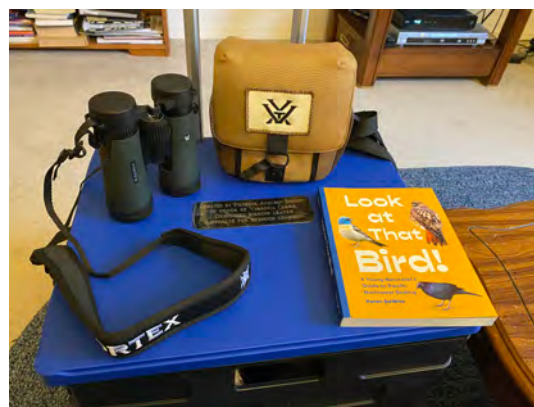
To quote Jane, "Yesterday's ceremony at Padilla Bay to present the Pilchuck Audubon gift of 10 pairs of binoculars and field guides was great fun for all involved. Doug led the dedication by showing the traveling case with the binoculars safely inside plus a separate box for the field guides. Each case included a loving plaque on its lid to let the lucky recipients know that this gift is in honor of Virginia Clark.

Lee Ann Nakken spoke about how the Tuesday birding group was Virginia's second family for thirty years as she prepared the route and made 4 dozen cookies for each outing. Lee Ann thanked all of the Pilchuck members who helped Virginia in her last months.

We may soon upload the scrapbook and cookbook to the Pilchuck Audubon website. Stay tuned.



from left to right:
 Judy Lowell, Merilee O'Clair, Wilma Bayes,
 Pam Pritzl, Pam Timmons, Dianna Murray,
 Phil Dickinson, Jane Lommel, Doug Cooper,
 Martha Jordan, Carlos Pinto



Phil Dickinson and Jane Lommel

Keep this notice handy for the upcoming Washington State Legislative 2024 session, which will run from January 8th to March 7th.

There will be many alerts to Washington State Audubon members to contact our local legislators, urging them to support votes on these top priority items.



2024 AUDUBON WASHINGTON LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Partnering for Protection

Audubon is working with our partners to protect key climate policies, reduce pollution, and make important investments in conservation and clean energy.

Policy Priorities

In the 60-day 2024 legislative session, Audubon seeks to protect key climate investments, address the scourge of plastic pollution, and promote habitat connectivity and low-income community solar. We also support investments in voluntary stewardship in Washington's shrub-steppe and estuary restoration in Puget Sound.

CLIMATE AND CLEAN ENERGY

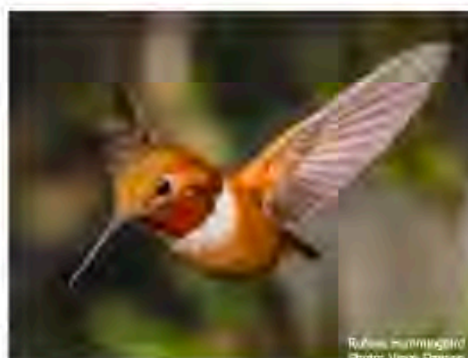
We've made great progress adopting strong clean energy targets while improving processes for siting large-scale renewable energy projects. This year we're working to ensure the Climate Commitment Act, continues to direct big investments in climate mitigation and adaptation. We're also advocating for the Fair Access to Community Solar Act, which empowers low-income Washingtonians to be a part of a well-sited clean energy transition.

COASTAL CONSERVATION

Last year was a banner year for investments in Puget Sound restoration and we're working to increase support for nearshore habitats (ESRP). We're also supporting the re-WRAP Act to protect our birds and coastlines from plastic pollution and hold producers responsible for the plastic waste stream, as well as legislation creating a bottle deposit system in Washington State.

SAGELANDS STEWARDSHIP

Last year we supported \$10M in funding for conservation districts, which would have expanded support for private landowner voluntary stewardship activities through Conservation Technical Assistance. Unfortunately, the legislature only funded this priority at \$1M. We're asking legislators to provide conservation districts with the funding they need. We're also seeking \$10M to create a Shrub-steppe Habitat Carbon Storage and Avoided Conversion grant program.



Rufous Hummingbird
Photo: Vince Steiner

ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES COALITION (EPC)

As a member of the EPC, Audubon is supporting three statewide priorities in 2024:

Holding Oil Companies Accountable

Oil companies blame climate policies for high gas prices, but rising gas prices are strongly correlated with record high oil company profits. We need transparency in how fossil fuel companies set prices to protect consumers from price gouging.

100% Clean School Buses

Washington students deserve a ride to school that doesn't pollute their lungs or our climate. This policy sets 100% clean targets and provides necessary funds for buses and charging.

re-WRAP Act

This policy improves our recycling system and shifts the cost burden from end-users to the producers who are filling our lands and waters with pollution. A separate but related "Bottle Bill" will create a container deposit system to boost collection rates for plastics.



www.wa.audubon.org

Bird Walk at Two Sites in Lynwood, December 2, 2023

Trip Report by Douglas Resnick

I planned this outing with the previous year's December outing in mind; last year I had to cancel due to snow. Based on the site's location near public facilities and major streets without hills, I expected that the first site for today's outing would be reachable, even after a snowfall: the Lynnwood Golf Course Trail. As it happened, there was no snow this year; even better, the rain stopped before we began walking, and during the course of our walk the clouds parted to let through some sunlight.

The trail runs in a loop around the golf course, and we proceeded counterclockwise. From the start, one opportunity for finding birds lay in the trail itself. We frequently saw Dark-eyed Juncos foraging there, along with an occasional Song Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, or Spotted Towhee. In the skies overhead, Glaucous-winged Gulls and American Crows passed by. In the trees and bushes we saw Kinglets, both Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned, along with Chickadees, both Chestnut-backed and Black-capped. On two occasions, the smaller birds flocked together in a mixed group.

As we continued, additional opportunities for sighting arose. Atop light-poles in the Edmonds College athletic field to the north, many Rock Pigeons were resting. Beside a pond in the golf course, American Wigeons foraged in the grass. In a further pond, we spied several Hooded Mergansers and a single Ring-necked Duck. From time to time we heard a Northern Flicker call, but it was only near the end of the walk that the bird came into view, when it was briefly joined by a second Northern Flicker.

With no snow on the streets, there was no impediment to visiting a second, local site: South Lynnwood Park. To start with, we walked past the recently improved play facilities, in order to reach the stream on the eastern side. We followed it to the northern edge of the park, then back southward to the Interurban Trail. That trail took us past Hall Lake, to where another stream flowed, its waters joining the lake. We saw again many of the woodland birds mentioned above, but also a number of Golden-crowned Sparrows and a White-crowned Sparrow. At one point, a Double-crested Cormorant flew above us, and through the gaps between houses we were able to spot a Bufflehead and a Pied-billed Grebe in the lake.

We finished at noon, having recorded observations of 31 species in eBird. Several of us then reconvened at Patty's Eggfest for lunch.



Upcoming Classes

Classes will be conducted over Zoom (and recorded if you cannot make the live session). Register online at: <https://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/classes>

Beginning Birding

January 17 & 24

7:00-9:00pm

Online

Instructor: Jack Stephens

Are you new to birding and wondering how to get started? Have you been birding on your own for a bit, but would like to learn more? This is the class for you. We will focus on the skills that will help you feel more connected to the avian world that surrounds us. I have been a life-long birder and would like to share my passion with you. I will do my best to make the experience interactive and fun. The only prerequisite for the class is a willingness to learn and enthusiasm.

The class will be recorded and registrants will have access to the recordings until February 14.

\$20 for PAS members

\$30 for non-PAS members

All About Owls: Understanding and Identifying Washington's Most Mysterious Birds

February 29, March 7, & March 21

7:00-8:00pm

Online

Instructor: Connie Sidles

Because owls tend to hunt at night and hide during the day, they can be hard to see and even harder to identify. Yet for most birders, every owl sighting is memorable. Join Connie Sidles as she takes you into the secret lives of Washington's 15 owl species. Each species has its unique field marks and its wonders. In this class we will learn how to find owls and ID them. Nesting season is well underway, and the owls will be calling.

\$25 for PAS members

\$35 for non-PAS members

Who's Calling, Please? Introducing Birding by Ear

March 12 & 19

7:00-8:30pm

Online

Instructor: Whitney Neufeld-Kaiser

Identifying birds by their songs and calls can transform both your everyday life and your birding experience. This 2-part class is perfect for folks who just finished the recent Beginning Birding class or are just starting to recognize the sounds of birds in their neighborhood. We'll take a deep dive into the songs and calls of a few birds that are both common in Puget Sound and that have distinctive and diverse sounds. With the goals that (1) you'll come away having definitively mastered the sounds of at least one bird and (2) you'll have a solid foundation of skills to learn the sounds of as many birds as you fancy.

\$20 for PAS members

\$30 for non-PAS members

Who's Calling, Please? Introducing Birding by Ear

March 17

8:00-10:30am

Field Trip

Instructor: Whitney Neufeld-Kaiser

This field trip to Forest Park in Everett is an optional add-on to Whitney's 2-week online lecture. Space is limited to 10 registrants.

\$15 for PAS members

\$25 for non-PAS members

The Raptors Among Us

November 12, 19, 26, & December 3

7:00-8:30pm

Online

Instructor: Connie Sidles

Few observations in nature delight the soul more than the sight of a hawk or an eagle circling lazily in the sky. But looks can be deceptive. These are working birds, actively hunting for prey to chase down and eat. "Raptor" comes from the Latin word for "seize or plunder," and that is indeed what these magnificent hunters do. Washington is host to 20+ species of vultures, eagles, hawks, and falcons! Come let master birder Connie Sidles show you how to identify them all. Class is designed for advanced-beginner and intermediate birders.

\$45 for PAS members

\$60 for non-PAS members

BACKYARD BIRDING

by Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

October 26 - November 25, 2023

It is good to see the Varied Thrushes again. They come back every winter.

Reporting from Edmonds Sarah and Paul Bueren listed a Varied Thrush, 15 Dark-eyed Juncos, 6 Chestnut-backed Chickadees, 2 Black-capped Chickadees, a Spotted Towhee, 25 American Crows, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, 2 Steller's Jays, 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets, a Brown Creeper, a Townsend's Warbler, a Downy Woodpecker, 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, 2 Northern Flickers, 2 House Finches, and 12 Bushtits for a total species count of 18.

Reporting from Everett, Kriss Erickson listed 14 Black-capped Chickadees, 6 Chestnut-backed Chickadees, 2 Bewick's Wren, 6 Steller's Jays, 21 Bushtits, 32 American Crows, 8 Western Gulls, 12 American Robins, 4 Female and 5 male House Finches, 2 female and 2 male Spotted Towhees, one male and one female Downy Woodpecker, 6 Northern Flickers, 4 Song Sparrows, a Cooper's Hawk, 8 Dark-eyed Juncos, one male and one female Red-breasted Nuthatches, 3 male and 3 female Anna's Hummingbirds, a Common Raven, a Pileated Woodpecker, 3 male Hairy Woodpeckers, 2 male Varied Thrush, 4 Snow Geese flying over, 16 Canada Geese flying over, a Barred Owl in the woods, a White-crowned Sparrow, and a Winter Wren for a total species count of 26.

Maureen Schmitz's report from Everett included 2 Golden-crowned Sparrows, 4 Dark-eyed Juncos, 2 Spotted Towhees, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2 Black-capped Chickadees, 2 Chestnut-backed Chickadees, 3 Steller's Jays, a Varied Thrush, 3 Northern Flickers, 40 American Crows flying over, 4 American Crows in the yard, a Downy Woodpecker, 20 European Starlings in the yard, 2 American Robins, 12 Bushtits, 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, 2 Bald Eagles flying over, and a Hawk Species flying over for a total species count of 18.

Reporting from Stanwood, Mary Sinker's report included 3 American Goldfinches, 11 American Robins, 5 Anna's Hummingbirds, 2 Bald Eagles, 2 Barred Owls, 2 Bewick's Wrens, 14 Black-capped Chickadees, a Brown Creeper, 5 Bushtits, 2 Cedar Waxwings, 9 Chestnut-backed Chickadees, 2 Cooper's Hawks, 115 Dark-eyed Juncos, 6 Downy Woodpeckers, a European Starling, 2 Evening Grosbeaks, a Fox Sparrow, 5 Golden-crowned Sparrows, 2 Great Blue Herons at the creek, 2 Great Horned Owls in the trees, 3 Hairy Woodpeckers, 10 House Finches, 6 Kinglet Species, 23 Mourning Doves In the yard, 6 Northern Flickers, a Northern Pigmy Owl in the yard, a Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, a Red-breasted Sapsucker in the trees, a Red-tailed Hawk in the trees/pasture, 5 Song Sparrows, 10 Spotted Towhees, 5 Steller's Jays, 3 Varied Thrushes, 4 White-crowned Sparrows, and 4 Winter/Pacific Wrens in the yard/brush pile for a total species count of 36.

Reporting from Marysville, my total species count of 20 included 5 American Crows, 4 Black-capped Chickadees, 3 Chestnut-backed Chickadees, a Downy Woodpecker, 15 Dark-eyed Juncos, 5 House Finches, a Hairy Woodpecker, 4 European Starlings, 3 Kinglet Species, 2 Great Horned Owls in the woods, 8 Mourning Doves, 4 Northern Flickers, a Pileated Woodpecker at the suet, 2 Spotted Towhees, 7 Steller's Jays, a Cooper's Hawk, 2 American Robins, 10+ Canada Geese flying over, a Song Sparrow, and a Varied Thrush.

If you would like to join our Backyard Birding group, please send me a message 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.

Saturday, January 6. Three Kenmore Parks

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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

This is a half-day trip. We'll visit Log Boom, Tl'awh-ah-dees, and Wallace Swamp Creek Parks. This will be an east walk. Boots are recommended. Further details will be provided to registered participants. After you have submitted your 2024 Field Trip Liability Release via <https://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/upcoming-trips> please contact the trip leader to register for this trip.

Tuesday, January 9. Monroe to Carnation

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Trip Leader: Phil Dickinson, 336-692-3760

Meet at 8:00 AM at the Monroe Park and Ride on U.S. 2 as we ring in the New Year with a trip through the Snoqualmie River Valley. Build your 2024 Year List at regular stops, including Lake Tye, Crescent Lake, Tolt-McDonald Park, Sikes Lake and the Snoqualmie River Trail. Dress for weather. Pack a lunch.

Saturday, January 13. North Camano Island

7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Trip Leader: Dave Droppers, Lycaenid@gmail.com

Let's brighten our dark days of winter with some wintering birds! We'll carpool to several sites on the north end of Camano - target sites include English Boom, Iverson Spit, Maple Grove boat launch, Leque Island, and other opportunistic sites as time allows, focusing on seabirds, shorebirds, and wintering waterfowl, but always be ready for surprises! Dress for weather, bring a lunch and/or snacks, and prepare for good company.

Meet at 7:30 AM at the SE corner of the Quil Ceda Village Walmart (I-5 exit 200).

After you have submitted your [2024 Field Trip Liability Release](#) online, please contact the trip leader in order to register for the trip.

2024 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: [2024 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://www.snohd.org/538/STATE-LOCAL-Guidance>

Tuesday, January 16. Caman o Island

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Trip Leader: Graham Hutchison, 425-890-0723

Meet at 8:00 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 explore English Boom, Utsalady Bay, Barnum Point, Iverson Point and other spots for winter woodland birds and waterfowl. Pack a lunch. Dress for the weather.

Tuesday, January 23. Samish Flats

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Trip Leader: Phil Dickinson, 336-692-3760

Meet at 8:00 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 look for winter hawks, falcons, owls, shrikes and wintering waterfowl along the flats and check out both Padilla Bay and Smash Bay. Pack a lunch. Dress for weather.

Tuesday, January 30. South Whidbey Island (assuming regular ferry schedule)

7:20 AM - 5:00 PM

Trip Leader: Wilma Bayes, 425-344-8599

Meet at 7:20 AM at Eastmont Park and Ride, I-5 exit 19, east side to catch a ferry from Mukilteo. Sunset Beach, Deer Lagoon and Crockett Lake areas always yield a large and varied species list, and the rest of South Whidbey is great for birding. Pack a lunch. Dress for weather.

Saturday, February 3. Mukilteo

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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

This is a half-day trip. We'll visit Big Gulch Trail Park, then several parks along the shoreline. This will be a moderately difficult walk. Boots are recommended. Further details will be provided to registered participants. After you have submitted your [2024 Field Trip Liability Release](#) online, please contact the trip leader, in order to register for the 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

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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.

Board of Directors

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Staff

Executive Director/	Brian Zinke	director@pilchuckaudubon.org
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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